



21 August 2020



Tēnā koe 

Thank you for your email of 31 July 2020 to the Ministry of Education requesting the following information:

- 1. The number of prefab buildings currently being used at schools*

Your request has been considered under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act).

We do not record data on 'prefab buildings' as this is not a definition by which we describe any buildings on school sites. As such, I am refusing your request in full under section 18(g) of the Act as the requested information is not held by the Ministry.

However, we do record some data on 'relocatable' buildings, of which there are currently 4732 nationwide. We do not record a date on which relocatable buildings were built or when they were moved. Given their relocatable nature, such buildings may be shifted between schools a number of times over their life span. These shifts are not necessarily systematically recorded, making accurate data capture difficult.

For context, 'relocatables' are no different to any other teaching space in that they provide long-term accommodation for schools and come in many styles. They do not have a predetermined lifespan and with adequate maintenance and capital replacement work can have a long life like any other building. The only difference is that relocatables can be transported. Many buildings recorded as 'relocatable' on our asset management system are part of schools' permanent facilities.

Boards of Trustees are responsible for the maintenance and development of all of their buildings and facilities, including buildings recorded as 'relocatable', and it is for Boards to determine how to allocate their property funding based on their property priorities.

Please note that the figure provided reflects the information currently recorded in our asset management system. This data is gathered at a local level and its precision is affected by a number of factors, including timeliness and consistency of local data input. As a result, the data may not fully capture all buildings of this nature, and may also include some buildings which are no longer in use.

Please note, the Ministry now proactively publishes OIA responses on our website. As such, we may publish this response on our website after five working days. Your name and contact details will be removed.

Thank you again for your email. If you have further questions please feel free to contact our media team in the first instance at media.team@education.govt.nz. If you are unsatisfied with my response, you have the right to ask an Ombudsman to review it. You can do this by writing to info@ombudsman.parliament.nz or Office of the Ombudsman, PO Box 10152, Wellington 6143.

Nāku noa, nā



Kim Shannon
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