



5 October 2020



Dear 

Thank you for your email of 8 September 2020 to the Ministry of Education requesting the following information:

“Can you please advise how much money, in total, has been allocated to the “enhanced induction and mentoring” programme? This programme will support new graduates who, as a result of COVID-19, have completed between 75% and 100% of usual ITE practicum requirements.

Please also advise how many graduating teachers will, by the end of the year, be eligible for this programme.”

On 16 September 2020, we transferred the part of your request about *“how many graduating teachers will, by the end of the year, be eligible for this programme.”* to the Teaching Council to respond in accordance with section 14 of the Act.

Your request for *“how much money, in total, has been allocated to the “enhanced induction and mentoring” programme* has been considered under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act).

Student teachers completing an initial teacher education (ITE) qualification this year have had significant disruptions to their studies because of the COVID-19 pandemic. In response, the Teaching Council has made temporary changes to ITE requirements, including:

- reducing the minimum practicum requirement by 25 percent;
- enabling greater flexibility for how the practicum requirement is met; and
- requiring beginning teachers who graduated having met the reduced practicum requirements, to complete an enhanced induction and mentoring programme.

The enhanced induction and mentoring programme will provide additional support for beginning teachers to make up for reduced practical experience during their training due to COVID-19. The additional support is intended to supplement the usual induction and mentoring provided to beginning teachers by their employers. The Ministry will fund the delivery of the enhanced induction and mentoring programme. Beginning teachers and their employers do not have to pay to take part in the programme.

Negotiations for provision of the enhanced induction and mentoring programme are currently underway. I am therefore withholding the total budget for the programme under section 9(2)(j) of the Act, to enable the necessary negotiations to be carried out without prejudice or disadvantage. I have identified no public interest considerations sufficient to outweigh the need to withhold this information at this time. Further information about the programme will be proactively released once the negotiations have been completed and a contract has been finalised.

Please note, the Ministry now proactively publishes Official Information Act 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. You have the right to ask an Ombudsman to review this decision. You can do this by writing to info@ombudsman.parliament.nz or Office of the Ombudsman, PO Box 10152, Wellington 6143.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. Schöllmann', written in a cursive style.

Dr Andrea Schöllmann
Deputy Secretary
Education System Policy