



5 August 2020

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your emails of 1 and 2 July 2020 to the Ministry of Education requesting the following information:

*"... any records and data the ministry holds on the government education buildings and grounds less than 1 metre above sea level?"*

And

*"...a copy of all written advice or reports created by the Ministry of Education on preparing educational facilities for the impacts of sea level rise."*

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

In response to your first request, the Ministry does not systematically collate records and data on education buildings and grounds less than 1 metre above sea level. I am therefore refusing this part of your request under section 18(g) of the Act, as the information requested is not held by the Ministry.

In response to your second request, there are two distinct aspects we have considered:

- Advice or reports relating to existing school sites; and
- Advice or reports relating to the acquisition of school sites.

I am refusing your request (as it relates to existing school sites) under section 18(g) of the Act as the information is not held by the Ministry. I am refusing your request (as it relates to site acquisition) under 18(f) of the Act as the information cannot be made available without substantial collation and research.

The Ministry's new school site selection methodology, which assists the Ministry in accessing the appropriateness of land for new schools (not applied retrospectively), encompasses multi-criteria analysis including reference of flooding potential. Although there is no specific criterion on sites less than one metre above sea level, low lying sites identified in flood plains with watercourse or those located in red tsunami threat zones (as assessed by the relevant local authority) score low and would be subject to additional due diligence to understand the impacts/threats.

The Ministry did commission a Coastal Hazard Assessment and a Flood Hazard Assessment for the Redcliffs School relocation project in 2017. These reports are available to the public on the Shaping Education website: <http://shapingeducation.govt.nz/read-more-2/recent-announcements>.

There may be some general reference to low lying sites in other site selection reports although these reports are not centrally indexed. It would require substantial collation and research to review the multiplicity of site selection reports we have commissioned over the years to find reference to a specific situation.

While the records of the latitude and longitude is not related to your request, the information is publically available on the Education Counts website should you wish to view the link:  
<https://www.educationcounts.govt.nz/data-services/directories/list-of-nz-schools>.

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](mailto:info@ombudsman.parliament.nz) or Office of the Ombudsman, PO Box 10152, Wellington 6143.

Yours sincerely



Kim Shannon  
**Head of Education Infrastructure Service**