

SENT FROM EMAIL on 17 February 2023

Thank you for your email of 14 February 2023 to the Ministry of Education requesting the following information:

The total number of school employees who lost their jobs due to the vaccine mandates in New Zealand

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

The Ministry did not record resignations or terminations as a result of the COVID-19 vaccine mandates. Therefore, I am refusing your request under section 18(g) of the Act, because the Ministry does not hold this information, and we have no grounds for believing it is either held by, or more closely connected to the functions of, another department or interdepartmental venture or Minister of the Crown or organisation, or by a local authority.

However, in November 2021, the Ministry introduced a payroll category for recording the number of school employees who left their positions for COVID-19-related reasons. This COVID-19 category is a broad category that includes employees leaving for other COVID-19-related reasons, such as health, or family obligations. The category does not isolate whether employees voluntarily left the workforce or left due to the vaccine mandate. Therefore, reliable conclusions cannot be drawn regarding the volumes of employees leaving their positions due to the vaccine mandate. Nonetheless, this may provide you with some useful information. Since November 2021, when the payroll category was created, 459 teachers and 570 non-teachers have left their roles for 'Covid' related reasons.

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. You have the right to ask an Ombudsman to review my decision on your request, in accordance with section 28 of the Act. You can do this by writing to info@ombudsman.parliament.nz or to Office of the Ombudsman, PO Box 10152, Wellington 6143.

Nāku noa, nā,

Official and Parliamentary Information | Ministry of Education | ED
[education.govt.nz](https://www.education.govt.nz)

He mea tārai e mātou te mātauranga kia rangatira ai, kia mana taurite ai ōna huanga
We shape an education system that delivers equitable and excellent outcomes

