



26/08/2025

OIA: 1351954 – Detailed breakdown of \$120 million Auckland classroom project

Thank you for your email which was transferred on 1 August 2025 to the Ministry of Education (the Ministry) requesting the following information, in relation to the Minister of Education's announcement of \$120 million investment for the construction of 137 new classrooms in Auckland:

- 1) *A comprehensive breakdown of the \$120 million budget, including:*
 - a) *Construction costs per classroom (materials, labor, fit-out).*
 - b) *Costs associated with land acquisition, site preparation, and shared infrastructure (e.g., hallways, utilities).*
 - c) *Design, architectural, and project management fees.*
 - d) *Contingency funds allocated for potential cost overruns.*
- 2) *Confirmation of the exact size (in square meters) of each classroom, or an average size, to facilitate accurate cost-per-square-meter calculations.*

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

The Government's investment of \$120 million into building more classrooms in Auckland schools (the Project) is in the early stages of development. The following press release includes the most detailed breakdown of the Project that we are able to release at this time, showing the number of classrooms per school: <https://www.beehive.govt.nz/release/120-million-auckland-school-property-growth-plan>

Given the early stages of the Project, the Ministry does not currently hold the information in the detail requested. However, all of the information held relating to the project is refused under section 18(a) of the Act by virtue of section 9(2)(b)(ii) of the Act. This provides good reason for withholding the information requested where disclosure would be likely unreasonably to prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied or who is the subject of the information.

As required under section 9(1) of the Act, I have considered the public interest in releasing the information withheld. I do not consider that the public interest considerations favouring the release of this information are sufficient to outweigh the need to withhold it at this time.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'J Sheppard', written in a cursive style.

Jerome Sheppard
Chief Executive
School Property