

16 September 2022

9(2)(a)

**RE Official information request ChChD 10947 / HNZ 3575**

I refer to your email dated 4 September 2022 requesting the following information under the Official Information Act from Waitaha Canterbury. Specifically:

**Please can you send me**

- 1. the annual age 5 and year 8 oral health data from the School Dental Services for Ashburton and Methven for the years 1990 to 1999.**
- 2. Please can you send me also the same data for these towns for the years 2000 to the present, as supplied by the Community Oral Health Service.**

**Specifically, I would like to see the statistics for decayed, missing and filled teeth, and the percentages of caries-free children for both age groups.**

We are declining a response to your request pursuant to section 18(f) of the Official Information Act i.e. “...to provide the information requested would entail a substantial amount of time and resource”. We estimate that it would take a senior staff member and a data analyst in excess of 30 hours to complete this work.

We report to the Ministry of Health for whole of service and not schools. Consequently, the Ministry of Health holds only aggregated data from the former District Health Boards and the current Te Whatu Ora / Health New Zealand Districts.

As you may be aware, the Ministry publishes data from the Community Oral Health Service (formerly the School Dental Service) on its oral health webpages: (see link below).

<https://www.health.govt.nz/nz-health-statistics/health-statistics-and-data-sets/oral-health-data-and-stats>

You may, under section 28(3) of the Official Information Act, seek a review of our decision to withhold information by the Ombudsman. Information about how to make a complaint is available at [www.ombudsman.parliament.nz](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz); or Freephone 0800 802 602.

Please note that this response, or an edited version of this response, may be published on the Waitaha Canterbury website after your receipt of this response.

Ngā mihi / Yours sincerely,



Ralph La Salle  
**Senior Manager, OIAs**  
**Waitaha Canterbury / Te Tai o Poutini West Coast.**