

TEACHING COUNCIL

NEW ZEALAND | Matatū Aotearoa

9 April 2020



RESPONSE TO YOUR REQUEST UNDER THE OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT 1982

Thank you for your email of 5 March 2020 requesting information under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act). I have provided responses to each of your questions below.

1. How many complaints and mandatory reports about teachers were made in 2019? How many of those concerned teachers working in early childhood?

Total complaints and mandatory reports received in 2019: 643

Total ECE-related complaints or mandatory reports received in 2019: 219

2. How many complaints and mandatory reports received in 2019 were dismissed by the triage committee? How many of those concerned teachers working in early childhood?

Triage Committee outcomes in 2019

	No further action/dismissed
Early childhood	54
All sector total	158

'No further action or dismissed' includes cases where the Triage Committee decided there was no real conduct or competence issue raised, or the matter is unlikely to require a disciplinary response, provided advice e.g. for a rehabilitative approach or referred the issue to the employer to deal with.

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3. How many complaints and mandatory reports received in 2019 were dismissed by the Complaints Assessment Committee? How many of those concerned teachers working in early childhood?

Complaints Assessment Committee outcomes in 2019

	No further action/dismissed
Early childhood	33
All sector total	109

4. How many complaints and mandatory reports received in 2019 were later dismissed by the Disciplinary Tribunal? How many of those concerned teachers working in early childhood?

Disciplinary Tribunal outcomes in 2019

	No further action/dismissed
Early childhood	0
All sector total	7

5. In how many of the complaints made in 2019 did teachers allege to the triage committee, Complaints Assessment Committee, Disciplinary Tribunal, or the Teaching Council that a complaint against them was malicious? How many of those were teachers working in the early childhood sector?

Due to the substantial amount of work that would be required to research and collate the information to answer this question, including manual searching through and reading of hundreds of cases, we are refusing your request under section 18(f) of the OIA.

6. In how many cases in 2019 did the above entities conclude that a complaint was likely to be malicious? How many of those cases were against ECE teachers?

There were no cases that were determined to be malicious, or as we classify them in our system 'trivial or vexatious'. Cases with no further action or those referred to the



teacher's employer do not meet the threshold for our involvement as a professional body, could potentially be considered trivial, though we do not record this type of information in our data system.

7. Can I please have a copy of any communications or reports by the entities mentioned above or their members about the incidence of malicious and/or trivial complaints against teachers?

We are unable to supply this information as the information requested does not exist. We rely on section 18 (e) of the OIA in this respect.

8. Can I please have a summary of a sample of the complaints that were dismissed by the triage committee in 2019. I am not seeking details, rather a one-sentence summary of the nature of the complaint, for example: teacher alleged not to have warmed child's milk sufficiently.

We interpreted this question to mean a sample of cases concerning early childhood teachers that were dismissed by triage.

Some examples of complaints or mandatory reports that received a no further action outcome by the Triage Committee are: teachers alleged to have not followed centre guidelines, an accusation of teaching without a current practising certificate, an accusation of making false accusations, poor time management and not giving full notice.

I hope the information we have provided is useful, but if you have any more queries please don't hesitate to contact us. If you are not satisfied with my response you have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman, who can be contacted by writing to: The Ombudsman, PO Box 10152, Wellington 6143 or emailing info@ombudsman.parliament.nz.

Yours sincerely,



Pauline Barnes
Deputy Chief Executive – Professional Services

