

TEACHING COUNCIL

NEW ZEALAND | Matatū Aotearoa

21 November 2018

Tēnā koe Ms

RESPONSE TO YOUR REQUEST UNDER THE OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT

Thank you for your email dated 29 October 2018 requesting information under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act).

Here is our response:

1. Any data, information the Education Council may hold in relation to police vetting checks for the last six years (to capture two of the three year processes).

Every teacher who is granted registration and a practising certificate or has their practising certificate renewed will be police vetted as part of the process. As a result, we hold information on more than 200,000 multiple individual police vets (obtained every three years for teachers who renew practising certificates). Making this information available to you would require significant collation and research.

We have considered extending the time to make our response or charging you for our services but consider both approaches to be impracticable. I am therefore refusing this question under section 18(f) of the Act.

2. The number of teacher certificate renewals and practicing certificates recorded for the last six years (to capture two of the three-year processes).

The table below has the number of practising certificate applications approved for the previous six years. Note that the process for applying for and renewing Practising Certificates changed in 2013; for years 2012 and 2013 the figures for new practising certificates and registrations also includes teachers renewing Provisional and Subject to Confirmation certificates and there is no way to distinguish them.

The process since 2015 has meant that more people can apply for a renewal (since registration is for life) and fewer people need to apply for a new practising certificate and registration.

Note also that the Register of New Zealand Teachers was established in 1990, and all current teachers at that time were added at the same time. This means that every three years since are considered “peak years”, where there are more teachers than normal needing to renew their practising certificate, 2014 and 2017 were “peak years.”

Teaching Council of Aotearoa New Zealand

Phone: +64 (0) 4 471 0852
Fax: +64 (0) 4 471 0870
Email: enquiries@educationcouncil.org.nz
www.educationcouncil.org.nz

POSTAL ADDRESS:
PO Box 5326,
Wellington 6140
New Zealand

PHYSICAL ADDRESS:
Level 7, 80 Boulcott Street
Wellington 6011
New Zealand



Table: number of practising certificate applications approved for the previous six years

Year	New Practising Certificate & Registration	Move from Provisional or Subject to Confirmation to a Full Certificate	Renew an existing Practising Certificate	Total
2012	11,668*	4,448	19,026	35,142
2013	11,126*	4,674	21,642	37,442
2014	4,980	5,025	34,025	44,030
2015	4,836	4,776	26,029	35,641
2016	4,627	4,882	24,628	34,137
2017	4,471	4,847	28,353	37,671

*Includes renewing Provisional and Subject to Confirmation certificates as well as new practising certificate and registration

3. Number of teacher lifetime registrations recorded in the last six years (to capture two of the three year processes). How many retained?

All teachers are now registered for life and have been since 1 July 2015 unless their registration cancelled by the Council or the New Zealand Teachers Disciplinary Tribunal.

The number of teachers registered for life in the last six years, as at 1 November 2018, is more than 132,000.

The number of cancelled registrations since 1 July 2015 is 114.

4. Any data, in relation to police vetting checks that were denied since July 2017 to date (October 2018). NB: This may include applications made that were then denied after a check which was pending was later denied.

It is unclear what you mean in relation to police vetting checks that have been “denied.” We have taken this to mean you are seeking information about applications for registration, a Limited Authority to Teach or a practising certificate (or renewal) declined as a result of a police vet.

In order to answer your question, we would need to create the information by evaluating all applications that were declined with the police vet as the basis for the refusal. This would entail substantial collation and research which would disrupt the normal operations of the Council. We considered extending the time frame to answer this request or charging for the service, but both were deemed impracticable. We are therefore unable to answer this question under section 18(f) of the Act.



However, it is worth repeating that teachers must demonstrate they are of good character and fit to be a teacher. The Teaching Council will take the police vet into account in making its decision, as well as any other matters that are relevant in the circumstances.

5. Any information or data available which relates to the number of active teachers who have had their clearance revoked while currently working in schools since July 2017 to date (October 2018). Please list the reasons for these being revoked.

Teachers do not have their “clearance revoked” as it is not a process that the Council uses. The Teaching Council works closely with police and other agencies where there is evidence of a safety risk for learners and we act to mitigate that. We also act on cases where a teacher is convicted of an offence even where a learner is not involved (such as drink-driving convictions) because of the impact it has on the reputation of the profession.

As noted in the answer to question 3, a small number of teachers have had their teacher registration cancelled by the New Zealand Teachers Disciplinary Tribunal, as a result of concerns about their conduct. This will not be solely as a result of a police vet as most teachers come to our attention as a result of mandatory reporting by their employer. You can find copies of the New Zealand Disciplinary Tribunal decisions on our website [here](#).

I hope that this response is useful to you but if you are not satisfied with my reply 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.

Nāku poa, nā



Lesley Hoskin
Deputy Chief Executive

