



19 June 2024

Tēnā koe

Official Information Act request

Thank you for your email of 21 May 2024, requesting information about the Rebel Business School.

I have considered your request under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act). Please find my decision on each part of your request set out separately below.

- *The reasoning behind your organisation beginning these deals.*

In association with local councils and Economic Development Agencies (EDAs), the Rebel Business School delivers free-to-attend business training courses across New Zealand that teach participants the fundamentals of starting a small business. These workshops are open to the public, and the programme content is aimed at people who are starting a small business without capital funds or prior experience.

The Rebel Business School team travels to regions around New Zealand, offering this programme to people who might not otherwise have the opportunity to procure necessary skills to start their own business. Their core programme is a 10-day intensive business skills workshop. Since 2017, the Rebel Business School has assisted over 1250 people to graduate their programme with new skills and confidence about starting their own business.

The Ministry has been a minority funding partner, as the majority of costs are covered by local councils and EDAs. There is an overlap in the target audience of the Rebel Business School's programme and the Ministry's client population.

On rare occasions, the Ministry has funded programmes to be run in areas with high unemployment levels where there is no labour market such as Te Kaha, Kawerau and Murupara. The Ministry has also contracted the Rebel Business School to deliver Self-Employment support programmes delivered on a one-to-one basis with eligible clients, previously known as Awhi.

In the financial year ending 30 June 2023, the Rebel Business School was selected through a competitive tender process to deliver a programme supporting the Ministry's Flexi-wage for self-employment product. You can read about Flexi-wage on the Work and Income website, here: <https://www.workandincome.govt.nz/products/a-z-benefits/flexi-wage-self-employment.html>.

- *Total given to "The Rebel Business School" by your organisation and or CCO'S broken down by year.*

- *Total citizen completed certificated since beginning funding this program.*
 - *Please add how many courses have been funded and there dates.*

Please see **Table One** in the below **Appendix** for a breakdown of courses that the Ministry has provided funding for and the number of Ministry clients who have attended courses with the Rebel Business School.

Skills for Industry (SFI) contracts provide short-term job-focused training to prepare clients who require up-skilling for specific requirements identified by industry, or in the case of our contracts with Rebel, for Self-Employment. Training can be offered as pre-employment or in-work training, and programmes can be delivered by providers or employers. Funding is attached to an individual person and their outcome. Whereas a Fee for Service (FFS) contract enables us to purchase services that are not a set price per employment outcome – like, in the case of Rebel Business School, a contribution to a workshop in recognition of it being made available to clients.

The Ministry does not require the Rebel Business School to report on attendance or completion for their public workshops, as the participants may not be Ministry clients. This aspect of your request is refused under section 18(g) of the Act as the information is not held by the Ministry and I have no reason to believe this information is held by or more closely connected to the functions over another department, Minister of the Crown, or organisation.

- *Have issues been raised on the attendance.*

Such as not attending the whole course but still getting a certificate.

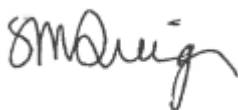
No such issues have been raised with the Ministry.

I will be publishing this decision letter, with your personal details deleted, on the Ministry's website in due course.

If you wish to discuss this response with us, please feel free to contact OIA_Requests@msd.govt.nz.

If you are not satisfied with my decision on your request, you have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or 0800 802 602.

Ngā mihi nui

pp. 

Magnus O'Neill
General Manager
Ministerial and Executive Services

Table One: A breakdown of funding provided to the Rebel Business School by the Ministry and the number of Ministry clients who have participated in courses.

FY	Contract	Activity start	Activity end	Participants	Contracted Value	Actual Paid
F18	Fee for Service - Pop-Up Business School	11 June 2018	22 June 2018	26	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00
F19	Fee for Service - Pop-Up Business School	23 July 2018	30 June 2019	166	\$60,000.00	\$60,000.00
F20	Skills for Industry PopUp Business	15 October 2019	31 October 2020	73	\$518,365.00	\$395,411.50
F21	Fee for Service - Pop-Up Business School	31 January 2021	30 June 2021	123	\$57,500.00	\$57,500.00
F21	Skills for Industry - AWHI Self Employment Pilot	31 January 2021	30 June 2021	5	\$198,060.00	\$125,396.00*
F22	Skills for Industry - AWHI Self Employment	1 August 2021	31 July 2022	20	\$170,910.00	\$132,540.00
F22	Fee for Service - Rebel Business School	1 August 2021	31 July 2022	121	\$109,000.00	\$109,000.00
F23	Fee for Service - Self-Employment Training Video	1 July 2022	30 June 2023	N/A	\$11,220.00	\$11,220.00
F23	Self-Employment Preparation Program	1 July 2022	30 June 2023	121	\$260,000.00	\$225,600.00
F23	Rebel Business School Aotearoa Workshops	1 July 2022	30 June 2023	18	\$240,300.00	\$119,300.00
F24	FFS - Rebel Business School Workshops	1 July 2023	30 June 2024	42	\$75,000.00	\$75,000.00
Totals				1,430	\$1,705,355.00	\$1,315,967.50

*This figure includes a wage subsidy. Future programmes leveraged Flexi-wage Self-Employment.