

22 September 2025

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
By email: [REDACTED]

Tēnā koe [REDACTED]

Request under the Official Information Act 1982

Thank you for your emailed letter received on 12 August 2025, requesting the following information from Unitec | Te Pūkenga – New Zealand Institute of Skills and Technology (Unitec):

Floor Utilisation and Space per Student EFT

1. *A detailed breakdown of **floor space utilisation** across all Unitec campuses, including:*
 - *Total floor area (m²) by building and room type (e.g., teaching spaces, labs, offices, common areas).*
 - *Hours of use per week for each space category.*
 - *Occupancy rates (percentage of time spaces are in use vs. vacant).*
2. *Data on **space allocation per Equivalent Full-Time Student (EFTS)**, including:*
 - *Total EFTS (by campus/faculty if available).*
 - *Average m² per EFTS across different teaching and learning spaces.*
 - *Any benchmarks or targets Unitec uses for space efficiency.*
3. *Any internal reports, audits, or policies from the last five years relating to **space utilisation, efficiency, or future planning** for campus facilities.*

This letter provides a formal decision on your request under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA).

The decision

The information you have requested relating to floor utilisation and space per student EFTS is set out below. It covers day and evening timetabled activities from Monday to Friday and does not include unscheduled activities such as ad-hoc bookings.

1. Floor Space Utilisation

1.1 Total floor area (m2) by building and room type (e.g., teaching spaces, labs, offices, common areas)

Space type	Total count	Total floor area (m ²)
Classroom	54	5602.09
Computer lab	17	1895.75
Lecture theatre	10	1165
Off-campus	10	Unknown*
Specialist	162	15171.95
Total	253	23834.79

*This is external, off-campus space such as hired studios.

1.2 Hours of use per week for each space category

Space type	Hours per week by space category
Classroom	2,096
Computer lab	695
Lecture theatre	347
Off-campus	356
Specialist	1,721
Total	1,043 (average)

1.3 Occupancy rates (percentage of time spaces are in use versus being vacant)

Space type	Total count	Occupancy rate	Vacancy rate
Classroom	54	64.69%	35.31%
Computer lab	17	68.13%	31.87%
Lecture theatre	10	57.91%	42.09%
Off-campus	10	59.33%	40.67%
Specialist	162	17.71%	82.29%
Total	253	57.38% (average)	46.45% (average)

2. Space Allocation per Equivalent Full-Time Students (EFTS)

2.1 Total EFTS by campus

Campus	EFTS			Total
	Semester One	Semester Two	Summer school	
Mt Albert	2,200	2,033	-	4,234
Waitakere	433	432	0.0469	866
Total	2,634	2,466	0.0469	5,100

2.2 Average m2 per EFTS across different teaching and learning spaces

Space type	Average (m ²) per EFTS for each space type
Classroom	3.79
Computer lab	4.06
Lecture theatre	5.86
Off-campus	0.00
Specialist	6.01

2.3 Any benchmarks or targets Unitec for space efficiency and 3. Any internal reports, audits, or policies from the last five years relating to space utilisation, efficiency, or future planning for campus facilities.

No formal reports or audits have been completed for space utilisation or efficiency in the last five years noting that no room usage survey reports have been completed since 2018 due to financial constraints. While there has not been specific utilisation targets or formal benchmarking against Tertiary Education Facilities Management Association standards since then, Unitec has adopted the principle of maximising space usage set out in its Academic Timetabling Procedure as:

3.2 Timetabling guiding principles

Academic timetabling enables centralised co-ordination of Unitec's learning and teaching activities to offer the best experience for Unitec's teaching staff and students as well as maximising the use-performance of Unitec's teaching spaces.

Work on the unification of Unitec and MIT, which is part of the broader financial viability programme underway with Te Pūkenga business divisions, will consider future planning of campus facilities. This will likely include assessments of the property footprint for rationalisation and efficiency.

You have the right to make a complaint to the Ombudsman under section 28(3) of the OIA if you are not happy with this response. Information about how to do this is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or by calling 0800 802 602.

We may publish our OIA responses and the information contained in our reply to you on our website. Before publishing we will remove any personal or identifiable information.

Ngā mihi



Gus Gilmore
Tumuaki | Chief Executive