



30 JUN 2016

Callum and Victoria Turnbull

Dear Callum and Victoria

Thank you for your email of 31 May 2016 to the Ministry of Education (the Ministry) requesting the following information:

1. *Was the Ministry aware that because of 'incorrect labelling', a storeroom was built instead of a seclusion room?*
2. *When was the Ministry first aware of the error?*
3. *What did the Ministry do when they found out about the error?*
4. *Was the Ministry aware that the School was using the storeroom as a seclusion room?*
5. *During the 16 years the storeroom/seclusion room had been operated by the School, had the Ministry viewed the room and monitored its use?*

These questions are a follow-up to your two requests made earlier in the year to the Ministry under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act). This request has also been considered under the Act.

As a result of your questions, we have conducted further investigations into the circumstances behind the incorrect labelling of building plans at Ruru Specialist School (the School). We became aware of the incorrect labelling on the original construction and building consent drawings on 17 February 2015, as we were preparing our response to an earlier request under the Act. Given the room had been both designed and built to be used as a seclusion room and that the room's correct usage was recorded on the School's asset plans, we determined that no remedial action was necessary. In 1999, once the construction contract was complete the Ministry's School Property Officer would have viewed the room. Since then, we have had no reason to monitor the room's usage.

The construction of the seclusion room was one component of a much larger building modification project. I am satisfied that the room's incorrect labelling on the construction and building consent drawings was a small error without lasting consequences.

If you have any questions about this response, please feel free to contact the Director of Education
for Otago/Southland, Julie Anderson at _____ or 03 471 5217.

Yours sincerely



Katrina Casey
Deputy Secretary
Sector Enablement and Support