

C J Turnbull and V A Turnbull

9 April 2024

Erica Stanford

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Cc: Royal Commission of Inquiry

Dear Erica

In July 2023 we complained about the conduct of Ministry of Education staff in letters to Secretary for Education, Iona Holsted (cc E. Stanford). On the 19 October 2023, Nancy Bell, Deputy Secretary responded on behalf of the Secretary for Education's Office.

On 27 February 2024 we wrote back to Nancy Bell (cc E. Stanford) advising that we had written to the Chief Ombudsman seeking confirmation from him regarding his review of matters raised.

Please be advised, the Office of the Ombudsman has reviewed investigation records and has answered our specific questions in a letter to us.

1. *Were you aware Christine Menzies knew about and withheld existing guidelines from Police, and as importantly, MoE investigator Terri Johnstone in 2014-2015?*

**Office of the Ombudsman response:** I am unsure as to precisely what the Ministry was referring to when it advised you in its letter of 19 October 2023 that *'[t]hese matters have also been considered by the Ombudsman'*, but I can confirm that the veracity of evidence gathered for the purposes of the Police investigation was not within the scope of Mr Boshier's investigation.

2. *Did you review the work of the Advisory Group, in particular, Terri Johnstone's paper and the Crown Law opinion?*

**Office of the Ombudsman response:** [Mr Boshier's investigation of your complaint did not involve a detailed evaluation of the work that led to the development and publication of new guidelines in 2016 (updated in 2017)]

3. *Did you consider Murray Roberts' role in the investigations and development of new guidance?*

**Office of the Ombudsman response:** I have noted the Ministry's advice to you in its letter of 19 October 2023, to the effect that Murray Roberts' role in the investigation and development of guidance was reviewed, '*including by the Ombudsman*'. Mr Boshier has written to the Ministry seeking comments on its characterisation of the investigation in this way.

4. *Has your office scrutinised or reviewed any concerns about David Wales?*

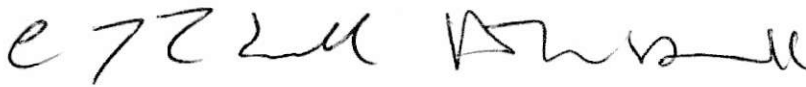
**Office of the Ombudsman response:** The Chief Ombudsman received no evidence in the course of his investigation along the lines you describe.

The Ministry of Education has fabricated reviews by the Office of the Ombudsman in an attempt to exonerate the actions of Ministry staff.

This is just another example of continual cover up by the Ministry of Education. The same deceit and cover up is as prevalent now, as it was in 2014, when we first complained about abuse of children and young people.

We look forward to your immediate response regarding Nancy Bell's reply to our complaints against Ministry of Education staff.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Callum and Victoria Turnbull', written in a cursive style.

Callum and Victoria Turnbull