

C j and V A Turnbull

4 March 2025

Lesley Hoskin

Tumu Whakarae - Chief Executive

Teaching Council of Aotearoa New Zealand

Dear Lesley

While your office is still working through the concerns raised, we would like to bring to your attention the OIA request response we received on Friday, 28 February.

As you know, we made 4 Teaching Council complaints against our son's past teacher Victoria McDonald, in April 2023. Then 17 months later, after the Royal Commission into Abuse released it's final report Whanaketia, we were advised by the Teaching Council in a letter, it had decided to take "*no further action*".

The Teaching Council advised the *no further action* decision was made after it reviewed documentation it received – "***including a response from the teacher.***"

That letter stated – "*the complaint, along with this letter, will be confidentially held on our internal files.*"

In regard to the OIA request made, for the date Victoria McDonald was notified of the Teaching Council decision, Deputy Chief Executive, Clive Jones replied – "***The Teaching Council was unable to make contact with Victoria McDonald during this process as it was unable to obtain current contact address details.***"

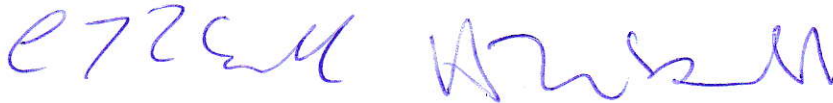
He also wrote – "*The complaint remains on her file.*"

You advised us in your letter dated 19 December 2024, you and your team have talked about and carefully considered the situation. Not only did your office fabricate investigation of individual teachers by the Ombudsman, it has also fabricated *a response from the teacher* - which is deceptive and dishonest.

The Teaching Council tricked us into thinking it had contacted the teacher, provided her with our complaints and evidence, received a response from the teacher and that that response had contributed to the decision, *to take no further action on this matter*. This would have been our understanding still, if not for the OIA response we received on Friday. This is totally unacceptable.

If your office had contacted us during the 17 months that it held the Victoria McDonald complaints, we could have advised Victoria McDonald was originally from _____ where her _____ family still lives, and have lived for generations. Her parents, _____ have their contact details online.

Yours sincerely

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

Callum and Victoria Turnbull

cc:

Rt Hon Christopher Luxon – Christopher.Luxon@parliament.govt.nz

Rt Hon Chris Hipkins – Chris.Hipkins@parliament.govt.nz

Chloe Swarbrick – Chloe.Swarbrick@parliament.govt.nz

Debbie Ngarewa-Packer – Debbie.Ngarewa-Packer@parliament.govt.nz

Hon David Seymour – David.Seymour@parliament.govt.nz

Rt Hon Winston Peters – Winston.Peters@parliament.govt.nz



**Teaching
Council of
Aotearoa
New Zealand**

Matatū. Tū Mataora.
Stand tall. Shape the future.

28 February 2025

Victoria and Callum Turnbull

Official Information Request – date of notification

Tēnā koe,

Thank you for your letter dated 30 January 2024 requesting information as follows:

Please provide the date that each of the 5 teachers (Mary Erin Cairns, Hera Fisher, Victoria McDonald, Kay Schimanski, Paul Anderson-Kereti) were first notified (in writing, verbally or otherwise) of the Teaching Council decisions, in relation the Teaching Council complaints we made against them.

We have considered your request under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA) and can advise you as follows.

Mary Erin Cairns, Hera Fisher, Kay Schimanski and Paul Anderson-Kereti were first informed of the Triage Committee's decision via phone call on 19 September 2024. They were each sent a letter confirming this outcome on 20 September 2024.

The Teaching Council was unable to make contact with Victoria McDonald during this process as it was unable to obtain current contact details. The complaint remains on her file, noting she has not held a practising certificate since 2017.

We are still working through the concerns raised in your letter and will respond to you in full as soon as we are able to.

You have the right to seek a review by the Ombudsman of this OIA response and the process followed by the Triage Committee to reach their decision. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or freephone 0800 802 602.

Nāku noa, nā

Clive Jones
Pou Kaiāwhā | Deputy Chief Executive