
From: [redacted]
Date: Friday, 16 October 2015 12:36 p.m.
To: "LOW, Shona" <
Attach: Shona Low.docx
Subject: Re: Timeline

Hi Shona

The attachment is a timeline relating to police and CYF.

Thank you.

Regards Callum & Victoria

From: [LOW, Shona](#)
Sent: Thursday, October 15, 2015 2:36 PM
To: [redacted]
Cc: [LOW, Shona](#)
Subject: Contact details

Hi Callum,

My contact phone number is [redacted]

I look forward to hearing from you.

Thanks
Shona Low
Senior Sergeant
Southern Police

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The following is a schedule of events that lead us to make a formal complaint to the IPCA against Invercargill Police Detective M. Wyatt.

Police and CYF - Failure to investigate reported allegations of physical, psychological and emotional abuse of our son Rovin () and others by staff and management at Ruru Specialist School.

Police – Failure to respond to or accept further information gathered.

We reported:

Alleged assault of our son by teacher aide, witnessed and reported by bus driver.

Unexplained, regular bruising.

3rd party allegations of student abuse.

Mass allegation of suspected abuse of students by staff and management at Ruru Specialist School.

We witnessed a barbaric seclusion room at the school.

4 December 2014 - We made contact with Policeman David Blank, who was known to us. We told him what we had seen and heard and he told us we had come to the right place, and that it was a Police matter. We asked for his advice as we were concerned, the Principal of the school as well as 3 other staff had close family relationships with Police.

4 December 2014 – CYF Linda Hereaka interviewed us at home.

Hereaka had known conflict of interest.

We passed on documents to Hereaka and it is referenced CYF in turn, passed those documents onto Police.

5 December 2015 – CYF Hereaka contacted us to advise our concerns were a Ministry of Education matter and that there would not be an investigation.

5 December 2015 - Detective Wyatt contacted us by telephone. He told Callum Turnbull that the Police would not be investigating our concerns. He said, "It is a well-used room, and the ministry are aware of it." When Callum questioned him about the alleged abuse of our son, he stated "the Police do not investigate abuse at schools."

3 February 2015 - Complaint to CYF through Turnbull lawyer regarding the conflict of interest.

25 February 2015 – Callum Turnbull telephoned Paul Anderson-Kereti 2013 Deputy Principal Ruru Specialist School. Anderson-Kereti confirmed restraining Rovin and other students in storeroom.

25 March 2015 - CYF response letter.

30 March 2015 - Turnbulls email lawyer

OIA request made CYF

Beginning of April 2015 – Telephone call between MoE Manager Murray Roberts and Callum Turnbull (audio recorded).

Callum: was the ministry aware of the room prior to the investigation?

Murray: the room as I understand it was always on the plans of the school.

Callum: Right, and the ministry was aware of it being used?

Murray: the ministry was aware of it well...the ministry knew of it in turns of plans of the school. I can honestly say though, I have been at Ruru School many many times, and personally I was not aware of the room, and I had been shown around Ruru School lots of times.

Callum: Yeah, we had too. Exactly our point too. We had been there 4 years, and a board member and we never knew of its existence.

What would you say if the school said it was a well-used room, known by the ministry?

Murray: I would say that probably from the plans we were aware of the room. If the school was telling us that it was a well-used room then they would have documentation to support the use of that and in actual fact documentation doesn't support that it was a well-used room. In actual fact they tell us it was seldom used.

24 April 2015 - Victoria Turnbull met with CYF Site Manager Raewyn Hubbard and Supervisor Jan Oster. Victoria asked for the reason why CYF did not investigate: alleged abuse of son, regular unexplained bruising, 3rd party allegations of student abuse and our report of witnessing a barbaric seclusion room at the school. Oster confirmed that no other party (apart from us) had been talked/communicated with. She said the school had not been contacted. Victoria took to that meeting a copy of the Protocol between MoE, NZBOTA and CYF 2009, Reporting of Suspected or Actual Child Abuse and Neglect. They seemed unaware of this protocol, and Oster confirmed that that protocol was not followed. Oster told Victoria that they would normally talk to the victim and in this case that is your son, and because he has ASD that would probably be a waste of time. Victoria asked for CYF official position as to why they did not investigate the complaint. Hubbard explained she would talk with staff concerned and formally advise us. Victoria also requested a response in relation to the false accusation made in the response letter, that Callum Turnbull was abusive to Hereaka during a phone call, that Victoria was witness to.

Follow up phone messages left with Raewyn Hubbard.

No response.

30 April 2015 and 12 May 2015 Turnbulls email CYF.

No response.

13 May 2015 - Turnbulls lawyer sent email to CYF.

No response.

April 2015 - Victoria Turnbull contacted Detective Wyatt by telephone. He said that the MoE had just sent him a copy of Terri Johnsons Report. Victoria Turnbull asked if he had also been sent witnesses notes. He asked if that was the ex-teacher. Victoria read Wyatt XY statement. He said, "And the ministry have that do they? They've got that?" Victoria said, "Yes." Victoria asked how Police came to the decision not to investigate. Wyatt said, "Based on the information CYF had

gathered." Victoria reminded Wyatt of the reason he had given Callum over the phone on 5 December 2014. He said, "Did I say that, did I?" Victoria asked Wyatt how she would go about making an OIA request with Police and he replied, "I don't know how you'd go about that."

28 April 2015 - Turnbulls met with MoE Managers to discuss report.

Present: Turnbulls, Murray Roberts, Christine Menzies, Julie Anderson and Investigator contracted by MoE, Terri Johnstone, (audio recorded).

The following dialog are some quotes made by MoE with reference to Police/CYF.

Julie Anderson: "we don't do legal - criminal investigations. If you choose to carry out a criminal investigation, you will have to do that through the police."

Murray Roberts: "The ministry doesn't do...we are not involved in a criminal investigation. Our job was to undertake an educational investigation around the processes of the school."

Murray Roberts: "We have made a copy of the report available to the Police because we had a request from them."

Callum: "So have you requested that the Police look into this matter, knowing the new information that has come to you regarding the punching and stabbing?"

Murray Roberts: "No we haven't. No. This is additional information that has come to light and the Police will do their investigation."

Callum: "At the request of...? Who was requesting the Police do this investigation?"

Murray Roberts: "Have you been to the Police? Have you?"

Christine Menzies: "It is the responsibility of CYF to investigate any concerns with respect to allegations of abuse, not the role of the MoE."

"CYF are the responsible party in conjunction with Police. They do the investigation together."

"The MoE sit alongside that in respect of the matter of the problems of education, which is what Terri was doing with her report."

"If you choose to want to have a further investigation round any suspected abuse or otherwise of your child you need to do that through CYF. They have professional ability, and the code of conduct and protocol around how that is carried out."

Murray Roberts: "If you've got new information, or if other parents have got more information, there is a statutory organisation called CYF, they don't have a conflict of interest as far as an organisation."

Callum: "Are you prepared to listen to XY?"

Murray Roberts: "Your lawyer is a QC and I believe he should pass that information to CYF."

"We need to have further discussion but we don't do criminal investigations."

It is important to note that the MoE continually referred to XY statement as new information, however when Terri Johnstone interviewed us in February, we advised her of XY, how we found XY/ our association to XY, and specific details of abuse of students reported by XY (subsequently recorded by our lawyer - Notes of interview between J Eaton and XY dated 1 April 2015). She did not

include this information in her report, presumably because it sat outside her limited investigation framework.

MoE management stated matters of abuse and criminal activity sat outside the scope of the MoE Investigation. MoE advised us to go back to Police.

13 May 2015 - Turnbills lawyer sends letter to Detective Wyatt.

No response.

5 June 2015 – Turnbills lawyer sends Detective Wyatt follow up email.

No response

27 July 2015 – Turnbull lawyer sends Detective Wyatt letter.

No response

25 August 2015 - Victoria Turnbull submits online complaint to IPCA.

Callum and Victoria Turnbull

From: [redacted]
Date: Monday, 19 October 2015 2:16 p.m.
To: "LOW, Shona"
Cc: "Amelia STEEL" <Amelia.STEEL@...>; "Jonathan Eaton"
Subject: Schools intent

Good morning Shona

After talking with you this morning we would like to make reference to your comments about it being a matter of 'intent' by the school.

The allegations centre around the alleged abuse of our son and other disabled students. Surely the matter of 'intent' could only be determined through an investigation, through talking with people and gathering evidence. It is reported that there was no investigation by CYF and/or Police.

Reasons why we consider the schools 'intent' questionable:

- The fact that they transported students between schools to the storeroom – confirming student or staff safety was not an issue
- Alterations made to the storeroom prior to the MoE investigation – in attempt to mislead and deceive
- Not an isolated abuse allegation
- Secrecy and deception by the school in relation to the building, existence and use of the storeroom – to parents, BOT, MoE, Investigator contracted by the MoE, ERO, Southern Behaviour Support Services, Invercargill City Council – we have evidence to support this
- Witness XY – Notes of interview between J Eaton QC and XY: "XY refers to it as a punishment room."

Police continue to focus on the single aspect of 'the storeroom", and although this is a very serious aspect of our complaint it was not the only abuse allegation made. When we approached the Police on 4 December 2014, our son had been withdrawn from school, by us. We believe our son was physically assaulted by teacher aide Sharyn Jeffries on 5 November 2014. This was witnessed and reported to us by our son's bus driver. This complaint was poorly handled by the school. This alleged assault happened nearly 1 year ago and has never been investigated by the school, CYF or Police. He was coming home regularly with unexplained bruising. We also passed on to CYF, 3rd party allegations of student abuse. These allegations have never been investigated by the school, CYF, or Police.

Protecting children is top priority, and we can not understand why CYF and Police have not taken our reporting of suspected and actual abuse against our son and other students with disabilities seriously.

We trust you will give our complaint urgent attention.

Thank you.
Regards Callum and Victoria

From: STEEL, Amelia
Date: Wednesday, 4 November 2015 1:50 p.m.
To: "STEEL, Amelia"
Subject: Re: IPCA Complaint

Hi Amelia

A period of 3 weeks has past and we continue to be put on hold in relation to our complaint. We are unclear as to why it is taking so long for our complaint to be addressed. We have made at least 2 calls to Shona Low enquiring on progress and continue to be told that 'we have to be patient' and 'that Police are busy'. We have been trying to engage Police for close to 6 months now. Nearly 2 months have passed since the IPCA advised us that the matter has been referred back to Police for enquiry.

We would like reassurance progress is being made and timeframe we can expect a response to our complaint. Failing this we will be taking our concerns back to the IPCA.

Tomorrow, 1 year will have passed, since my son was dropped off at home by school bus, distressed and bruised, having allegedly been assaulted by at Ruru Specialist School staff member. This incident has never been investigated, by school, BOT, CYF, Police, or MoE, and that is disgraceful. As I explained to Shona Low this morning, we have been very patient.

I look forward to your reply.

Regards Victoria Turnbull

From: STEEL, Amelia
Sent: Wednesday, October 14, 2015 2:29 PM
To:
Cc: LOW, Shona
Subject: RE: IPCA Complaint

Hi

Senior Sergeant Shona Low has been confirmed as the investigator. She will make contact with you soon.

Regards

Amelia

From:
Sent: Wednesday, 14 October 2015 14:28
To: STEEL, Amelia
Subject: Re: IPCA Complaint

Hi Amelia

Thanks for your email. Could you please advise the timeframe we should expect to wait for the confirmation of the investigating officer and subsequently that officer making contact with us. The IPCA have advised us that we should expect to be contacted by Police within 2-3 weeks from their response letter dated 11 September 2015.

We are incredibly frustrated having made many attempts to engage Police over many months,

hence our complaint to the IPCA. The allegations, information and evidence we would like to provide Police is extremely serious. We understand the Police are busy, but without allowing us to provide this information to Police, how can the Police prioritise the importance of our case.

As indicated during our telephone discussion last week, our complaint involves the abuse of our son, as well as mass allegation. We advised you we believe disabled students are still at risk and have evidence to support this.

Once again, your urgency is requested.

Thank you.

Regards Callum and Victoria Turnbull

From: [STEEL, Amelia](#)

Sent: Monday, October 12, 2015 11:37 AM

To: [\[REDACTED\]](#)

Subject: RE: IPCA Complaint

Hi

The investigating officer has been nominated – once this is confirmed they will be in contact with you and you can provide information directly to them.

Regards

Amelia

From: [\[REDACTED\]](#)

Sent: Wednesday, 7 October 2015 16:47

To: STEEL, Amelia

Subject: Re: IPCA Complaint

Hi Amelia

To assist with the enquiry into our complaint it may be useful for us to email you and or your intended officer relevant information prior to an initial meeting.

Please advise us if you would like this information and we will forward it.

Regards Callum & Victoria

Regards Callum and Victoria

From: [STEEL, Amelia](#)

Sent: Wednesday, October 7, 2015 12:01 PM

To: [\[REDACTED\]](#)

Subject: RE: IPCA Complaint

Thank you

Acknowledging that I have received your request and will forward it for action,

Regards

Amelia

From:

Sent: Wednesday, 7 October 2015 11:51

To: STEEL, Amelia

Subject: Re: IPCA Complaint

Hi Amelia

Please accept this email as a formal OIA request for all police records on file regarding abuse allegations made to police involving Ruru Specialist School in Invercargill in December 2014 to date.

Regards Callum and Victoria Turnbull

From: [STEEL, Amelia](#)

Sent: Tuesday, October 6, 2015 11:55 AM

To:

Subject: IPCA Complaint

Hello

I have attempted to call your daytime number just now.

If you could provide a cell phone number I am happy to contact you on that.

Kind regards

Inspector Amelia Steel

Professional Conduct Manager

Southern Police

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