

**Subject:** Automatic reply: Your complaint  
**From:** "Katie Laidlaw" <[katie.laidlaw@educationcouncil.org.nz](mailto:katie.laidlaw@educationcouncil.org.nz)>  
**Sent:** 19/05/2016 12:21:55 pm  
**To:** [katie.laidlaw@educationcouncil.org.nz](mailto:katie.laidlaw@educationcouncil.org.nz)

Thank you for your email.

Hello,

Thank you for your email. I am on secondment at the Ministry of Education.

If your email is about a matter currently before the Complaints Assessment Committee, can you please refer if to Phil Straw [Phil.Straw@educationcouncil.org.nz](mailto:Phil.Straw@educationcouncil.org.nz).

For all other Education Council enquiries, please forward to [conduct@educationcouncil.org.nz](mailto:conduct@educationcouncil.org.nz).

Kind regards,

Katie

Katie



**EDUCATION COUNCIL**  
NEW ZEALAND | Matatū Aotearoa

**Katie Laidlaw**  
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**Subject:** Fw:Investigation Ruru School  
**From:**  
**Sent:** 19/05/2016 12:32:33 pm  
**To:** [Phil.Straw@educationcouncil.org.nz](mailto:Phil.Straw@educationcouncil.org.nz)

Brian Cameron  
Detective Sergeant  
Queenstown Police  
Ph 03441600  
Cell  
[brian.cameron@police.govt.nz](mailto:brian.cameron@police.govt.nz)

**From:**  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 19, 2016 10:24 AM  
**To:** [Katie Laidlaw](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Your complaint

Hi Katie

Detective Sergeant Brian Cameron has commenced an investigation into the storeroom/seclusion room and other alleged assaults at Ruru School Invercargill.

A question we do have: are teachers under any obligation to give police information and interviews if requested by police, regarding suspected abuse of students?

Regards Callum and Victoria

**From:** [Katie Laidlaw](#)  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 5, 2016 2:17 PM  
**To:**  
**Subject:** Your complaint

Hi Victoria and Callum,

I have discussed your concerns with my manager; given the serious allegations, he has suggested we keep hold of your complaint for now.

Rest assured we will not take any action, including sending it to the teachers, until we have received further information or confirmation – either from yourselves or from the Police.

Thank you for passing my contact details to the investigating officer; it is important that I touch base with him/her as soon as possible to discuss whether any immediate steps need to be taken by us i.e. pending completion of the Police process.

Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns.

Kind regards

Katie

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**From:**  
**Sent:** Thursday, 5 May 2016 4:17 p.m.  
**To:** Katie Laidlaw  
**Subject:** Re: my contact details for the Police, please

Hi Katie

Thank you for sending through your contact details. As soon as the Police confirm the investigator, we will forward your contact to them. I would just like to reiterate that we **do not** want any details of the complaint to be released to the school. The box on the Education Council Form was ticked in error. We would appreciate it if you could return the file including recorded conversations to us: C and V Turnbull, . We do not want to jeopardise the Police investigation by sharing information with the people being investigated.

Thank you.  
Regards Victoria

**From:** [Katie Laidlaw](#)  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 5, 2016 1:43 PM  
**To:**  
**Subject:** my contact details for the Police, please



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**Sent:** Tuesday, June 14, 2016 3:22 PM  
**To:** [Phil.Straw@educationcouncil.org.nz](mailto:Phil.Straw@educationcouncil.org.nz)  
**Subject:** Fw: Turnbull Complaint - Ruru Specialist School

Please confirm your response to this request.  
Thank you.

**From:**   
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 8, 2016 9:23 AM  
**To:** [Phil.Straw@educationcouncil.org.nz](mailto:Phil.Straw@educationcouncil.org.nz)  
**Subject:** Turnbull Complaint - Ruru Specialist School

Good morning Phil

Please return the confidential file we sent to the Education Council regarding the complaint we made against Principal Erin Cairns, and Teacher Victoria McDonald and other unnamed teachers at Ruru Specialist School, for alleged emotional, physical and psychological abuse of past and present students of the school.

As indicated, you have had the opportunity to read the information provided, and as it stands no immediate action from the Education Council is likely. Vulnerable children and young people remain at risk.

We require the file to submit to the Human Rights Commission which is leading a review into seclusion and restraint practices in New Zealand.

Please send complete file, including audio recording to: V A and C J Turnbull, .

Thank you for your time.

Victoria Turnbull

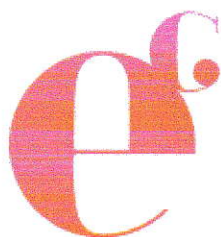
**Subject:** RE: Turnbull Complaint - Ruru Specialist School  
**From:** "Phil Straw" <[Phil.Straw@educationcouncil.org.nz](mailto:Phil.Straw@educationcouncil.org.nz)>  
**Sent:** 24/06/2016 8:45:08 am  
**To:**

Apologies for the slow response.

The file has been sent through to our admin department to be sent back to you. We have retained a copy as I have a scheduled catch up at the start of each month with all the relevant groups.

Regards

Phil



**EDUCATION COUNCIL**  
NEW ZEALAND | Matatū Aotearoa



Phil Straw  
LEAD INVESTIGATOR

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**From:**  
**Sent:** Thursday, 23 June 2016 3:01 p.m.  
**To:** Phil Straw  
**Subject:** Turnbull Complaint - Ruru Specialist School

Phil

I have not yet received back the confidential file and audio recordings, requested by email 3 weeks ago. Please return this information immediately, so we can pursue other avenues. Please show me the courtesy of an email response.

Regards Victoria Turnbull

**From:**