

Subject: Re: FOLLOW UP FROM TELEPHONE CONVERSTAION AND OIA REQUEST
ACHNOWLEDGEMENT

From:

Sent: 23/03/2016 10:52:58 am

To: "Murray Roberts" <Murray.Roberts@education.govt.nz>

CC: "Julie Anderson" <Julie.Anderson@education.govt.nz>; "Christine Menzies" <Christine.Menzies@education.govt.nz>; "Andrew Buchanan" <Andrew.Buchanan@education.govt.nz>; "David Wales" <David.Wales@education.govt.nz>

Murray

Thank you for the email.

You may or may not be aware that when we were interviewed by MoE Investigator Terri Johnstone in February 2015, 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 QC and XY dated 1 April 2015). She did not include this information in her report, presumably because it sat outside her limited investigation framework.

It is noted in Police records that Police were emailed a copy of the Johnstone Report on 20 April 2015. At that time you had received XY notes from our lawyer as well as notes from discussions Callum had with an ex-Deputy Principal regarding the use of the room. Did you pass on to Police this evidence that would suggest a level of alleged abuse of children who attend Ruru Specialist School?

I refer to Memorandum of Understanding between Child, Youth and Family and Ministry of Education 2012.

Child, Youth and Family and the Ministry of Education agree to work together with New Zealand Police and the New Zealand Teachers Council to ensure a prompt and effective response to allegations of abuse or concerns involving adults working in or associated with schools/kura, early childhood and other education facilities.

The agencies will apply the paramountcy principle and follow the agreed process which defines roles and responsibilities to ensure the safety of children and young people.

In cases, where either party receives information about alleged abuse or concerns involving a school employee that it considers necessary to share in order to protect the safety and wellbeing of children and young people, Child, Youth and Family and the Ministry of Education will contact the other party, New Zealand Police and the New Zealand Teachers Council, as appropriate. The parties will collectively develop and interagency management plan.

In May 2015, we wrote to Hon Hekia Parata and shared the concerns and information we had with her. The Minister wrote " *The matter you have raised falls within the responsibility of the Ministry of Education.*" Furthermore went on to state " *If you are not satisfied with how your complaints have been managed, you can contact the Office of the Ombudsman.*"

We had already removed our son from Ruru Specialist School prior to the discovery of the seclusion room at the school, because we believed he was being harmed. From the onset of the complaint process we considered a level of intervention by CYFs and Police necessary. This is the reason why we contacted the Police in December 2014, and is the reason why we have continued to pursue the complaint. We actually care about kids.

In December 2015, after an IPCA Investigation into the Police handling of our complaint, we received confirmation that an investigation into the use of the seclusion room is pending.

We are deeply saddened that children have remained at risk over the past 16 months while we have been tossed around all agencies, multiple times.

Thank you for arranging the OIA Request.

Your sincerely
Callum and Victoria

From: [Murray Roberts](#)

Sent: Tuesday, March 22, 2016 12:48 PM

To:

Cc: [Julie Anderson](#) ; [Christine Menzies](#) ; [Andrew Buchanan](#) ; [David Wales](#)

Subject: FOLLOW UP FROM TELEPHONE CONVERSTAION AND OIA REQUEST ACHNOWLEDGEMENT

Callum

This email is to confirm my telephone conversation with you at approximately 2:00 pm Wednesday 23 March and to acknowledge your request for Information sought under the Official Information Act (OIA).

This morning during a telephone conversation we had, you disclosed to me that you have, since the time of the release of the report related to Ruru School ; collected evidence that would suggest a level of alleged abuse of children who attend Ruru Specialist School. Furthermore, you indicated that a teacher who had taught Rovin at Ruru School had approached you and had shared information of that nature with you. You indicated that you have a recording of that information. You also went on to say that the teacher concerned has now left the country and resides in Australia. You also informed me that you had other people who have contacted you and have reported incidents to you that would suggest a level of alleged abuse of young people at the school that is concerning.

Having reflected on your conversation, I called you to advise that if you believe that you hold information regarding students being at risk who are attending the special school you should make an immediate notification to **Child Youth and Family (CYFs)** who have the statutory obligation to deal with such issues. CYFs will involve the Police if in their view they consider this level of intervention is required. You do not have to make the notification through the local CYFs Office but can do so through the national contact centre on **Free Call 0508 326 459**

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION UNDER THE OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT (OIA)

During our conversation this afternoon you also requested that the Ministry of Education make available to you a full copy of the plans of Ruru Specialist School that details all designated teaching and non teaching spaces in the school. This request has been forwarded to our Ministerial Unit in National Office who handle OIA requests.

Regards

Murray