

Our ref: OIA 19 – 10

26 February 2019

Victoria Turnbull

Email: cj.turnbull@xtra.co.nz

Dear Victoria

REQUEST UNDER THE OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT 1982 – RURU SPECIAL SCHOOL

Your email dated 5 February 2019 to the Education Review Office has been referred to me. In your email you state follows:

Thank you for your recent response to my questions regarding the 2016 ERO Review of Ruru Specialist School.

I refer to a letter we received from Jeremy France, Deputy Chief Executive Corporate Services ERO, on 10 October 2016. He stated, "You mention in your letter that 'it is extremely concerning' that the 2016 ERO report makes no mention of the Police investigation. The Police have informed ERO that no investigation was underway at the time of the April 2016 review and, while it has since been reactivated, the investigation is into historic issues."

Pursuant to the Official Information Act:

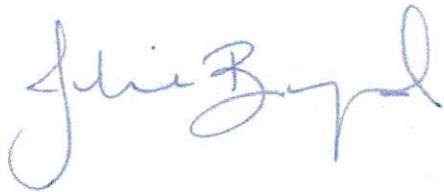
- *Please advise if or when ERO was first notified by Ruru Specialist School Board of Trustees of the Police investigation.*
- *Please advise if or when ERO was first notified by the Ministry of Education of the Police investigation at Ruru Specialist School.*
- *Please advise when ERO was first made aware of the Police investigation at Ruru Specialist School.*

In response to your request under bullet points one and two, ERO was not notified of the police investigation by the Ruru Special School Board of Trustees or the Ministry of Education. In relation to bullet point three, you mentioned in your letter of 16 September 2016 to ERO as follows:

It is extremely concerning to us that the 2016 ERO Review of Ruru Special School makes no reference to the ongoing Police Investigation into the use of the seclusion room at the school, which includes allegations of mistreatment of students by staff and management.

Following your comments above, on 21 September 2016 ERO contacted Mr Brian Cameron, Detective Sergeant of Queenstown/Wanaka/Otago Lakes Central Investigations and asked him when the police opened an investigation into the parental complaint at Ruru Special School. Mr Cameron informed ERO on 22 September 2016 that no investigation was underway at the time of the April 2016 ERO review and, while it has since been reactivated, the investigation was into historic issues. This is the message that Mr France conveyed to you in his letter of 10 October 2016.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Julie Burford', with a stylized, cursive script.

Julie Burford

Acting Deputy Chief Executive Corporate Services

Education Review Office | Te Tari Arotake Mātauranga

National Office | Tari Matua

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