

Our ref: OIA 19 – 10

14 October 2019

Victoria Turnbull
Email: info@ero.govt.nz

Dear Victoria

REQUEST FOR THE ERO 2016 RURU SPECIALIST SCHOOL TO BE WITHDRAWN

Thank you for your email and letter dated 18 September 2019 to the Education Review Office.

In your letter you are critical of the Education Review Office's report of 2016 for Ruru Specialist School, and asked that the report be withdrawn. You also raised concerns about omissions by the principal and board of Ruru Specialist School in providing attestations to the health, safety and wellbeing of the students, and the Police investigation of your complaint.

The Chief Ombudsman, Peter Boshier investigated your complaint in October 2016 and in his final opinion of November 2017 concluded that he found no evidence of unlawful actions (under the legislation at the time) or that ERO had acted unreasonably.

Following the Ombudsman's recommendation, ERO has instituted systems to ensure it is sufficiently aware of complaints received by schools and their management, and that any complaint investigated by the Ministry of Education is brought to ERO's attention promptly. ERO has amended its Compliance Checklist so that schools are specifically asked about significant complaints, and taken steps to ensure review teams check and record how schools manage students.

As mentioned in my letter of 12 September 2019, I am unable to agree to your request to withdraw the 2016 ERO report for Ruru Specialist School. I have copied this letter and attached a copy of your letters of 18 September 2019 and 21 August 2019 to the principal of Ruru Specialist School so that she is aware of the background to your request.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'J. France', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Jeremy France

Deputy Chief Executive Corporate Services

Education Review Office | Te Tari Arotake Mātauranga

National Office | Tari Matua

Cc: Erin Cairns

Principal, Ruru Specialist School

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