

[Print](#)[Close](#)

OIA Request regarding Commissioner Costs

From: **Sher Jerrett** [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 31 January 2014 4:16:38 p.m.
To: info@minedu.govt.nz (info@minedu.govt.nz)

[REDACTED]

31 January 2014

Dear Jim Greening

Your letter dated 24 January 2014 - O833909 - IM60/104/57/3

Thank you for your letter, in which you transferred my request 1.c. to Wairau Valley School.

I appreciate that going to the horses mouth, so to speak, is the direct and usually quickest approach. However in this instance it won't be. I have already approached the School regarding Board of Trustees Minutes of Meeting under the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 (28 Nov), and found both the Principal and Commissioner deliberately obstructive.

I went on behalf of the Wantwood Community Room Preservation Society, that had sent a letter a week earlier requesting access to the Minutes. Mrs Moore quoted the Official Information Act 1982, stating that we would have to apply and that it would take at least 20 working days, and more to access the archives, and that there would be a cost - including a staff member to watch us.

I said that I appreciated that it would take time to access the archives, that we didn't need to look at public excluded Minutes today, and that we would just look at the Minutes stored on site (LGOIMA 87). To which she said that they were combined with confidential/public excluded Minutes that we could not access (OIA 82), and that it would take time to separate them which we would have to pay for too.

I was aghast that Minutes that were colour coded and had to be stored separately (May 2010), had become mixed with publicly accessible Minutes and material. Therefore I requested the Minutes that had been used by the 150th Anniversary committee. These had been in the community so must have been vetted, and had recently been returned to the Board room (as seen by a parent). Mrs Moore then denied that they were in the Board Room, stating that she didn't know where they were, and that they had not been vetted either.

The WCR Preservation Society put an OIA request in for the Board Minutes on 13 December 2013. It too was sent to Wairau Valley School, and to date those Minutes are still not available to the Society.

I acknowledge that a Commissioner is put in place when there are problems at a School, however I don't believe that filing is the problem here. In this instance, Commissioner payment details should be readily available in their monthly finance reports. However, rather than have the School report to me, I would prefer that they reported to the Ministry, and that you send me a complete report on the expenditure and funding as I requested. By transferring 1.c. to Wairau Valley School, the Ministry again risks having an Awaiting Response or Long Overdue request recorded against them.

Please direct Wairau Valley School to report 1.c. details to you (the Ministry), and then forward the complete report on expenditure and funding to me as per the OIA request I submitted.

Yours sincerely

Sherridan Jerrett