



## Office of Hon Hekia Parata

Minister of Education

28 APR 2014

Dylan Reeve  
<mailto:fyi-request-1505-354697b9@requests.fyi.org.nz>

Tēnā koe Dylan

Thank you for your email of 4 March, requesting under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

*“information about any briefings or communications the Minister may have been party to on the issue of Religious Education (RE) in state schools.*

*Any assessment of the impact of RE on education outcomes, also any discussions around Section 78 of the Education Act.*

*Any official position held or expressed by the Minister on the matter of Religious Education.*

I am advised that you have made a similar request to the Ministry of Education, who have informed you that there are no plans to change the legislation criteria which allow state primary schools to close for religious instruction and observation. The Ministry also advised you that no briefings have been provided to me on the issues you have raised.

The official position of the Government is outlined in Section 77 of the Education Act 1964.

Thank you again for your email. You have the right to seek an investigation and review of my response by the Ombudsman, whose address for contact purposes is:

The Ombudsman  
Office of the Ombudsman  
PO Box 10-152  
WELLINGTON 6143.

Heoi anō

Hon Hekia Parata  
**Minister of Education**