



12/02/2024

Ben

fyi-request-25347-6dd80bb4@requests.fyi.org.nz

Tēnā koe Ben

OIA: 1320870- Cellphone Ban

Thank you for your email of 8 January 2024 (and later confirmation to remove part 7 of your request on 09 February 2024) to the Ministry of Education (the Ministry) requesting the following information:

1. *Under what statutory or other authority has the Minister/Ministry directed schools to have a cellphone policy?*
2. *Other than having a cellphone policy, what other requirements has the Minister/Ministry imposed?*
3. *Has the Minister/Ministry imposed any requirements for the content of the policy? (ie things that must, must not, or may be in the policy)*
4. *Has the Minister/Ministry imposed any requirements for the process by which the policy is to be created? In particular, are schools required to consult on the [sic]*
5. *Is the cellphone policy required to restrict cellphone availability/use, or can it maintain existing levels of availability use? Can the policy apply different restrictions to different age groups (for example, allowing final years students at college greater access)?*
6. *Are the policy exemptions for health conditions and special learning circumstances determined by the Minister/Ministry or the school? Are other exemptions permitted? Who will determine whether an exemption applies to a particular case? What protections are there if schools do have a sufficient exemption, or apply the exemption appropriately?*
7. *In relation to the power in question 1, what other subjects have been the subject of similar directions in the past six years? Are there other potential directions under consideration?*

I request the following documents:

- A. *All advice (including any decision papers or cabinet papers) in relation to the "cellphone ban".*



B. Copies of all communications to schools about the cellphone ban (but, for the avoidance of doubt, where substantially the same communication has been sent to more than one school, only one copy is requested)

Your request has been considered under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act).

The Ministry needs to extend the timeframe for responding to your request, pursuant to section 15A(1)(b) of the Act, as consultations necessary to make a decision on the request are such that a proper response cannot reasonably be made within the original time limit. You can now expect to receive a response to your request on or before 12 March 2024, which is an extension of 20 working days.

You have the right to ask an Ombudsman to investigate our decision to extend the timeframe for responding to this request, in accordance with section 28 of the Act. You can do this by writing to info@ombudsman.parliament.nz or Office of the Ombudsman, PO Box 10152, Wellington 6143.

Nāku noa, nā



Cindy McDonald
Principal Advisor
Government, Executive and Ministerial Services