



Jeremy Shaw
fyi-request-26593-807e4a4f@requests.fyi.org.nz

Ref: ESOIA093

Tēnā koe Jeremy,

Thank you for your request of 1 May 2024 for the following information:

Please supply all written correspondence, including the letters, emails, and text messages from school principals and teachers regarding the Government's ban on cellphones in schools

I have considered your request under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act).

I have interpreted your request to be for correspondence received by my office relating to the 'Away for the Day' policy. This is attached as **Appendix A**. I am withholding some information from this correspondence under section 9(2)(a) of the Act, to protect the privacy of natural persons. It is not possible to obtain every single piece of feedback received by the Minister without undergoing substantial collation, the attached appendix is all feedback uncovered by a key word search for terms relevant to the 'Away for the Day' policy.

Further to the collated feedback my office in **Appendix A**, I have received a substantial number of comments and feedback on teacher forums and social media. These are not public forums, so I am unable to collate that feedback for your request.

The Education sector (principals, teachers, association members, and students) have all provided a range of feedback which is publicly available. This is attached as **Appendix B**.

As required under section 9(1) of the Act, I have considered the public interest in releasing the information withheld. I do not consider the public interest considerations favouring the release of this information are sufficient to outweigh the need to withhold it at this time.

Thank you again for your email. You have the right to ask an Ombudsman to review my decision on your request. You can do this by writing to info@ombudsman.parliament.nz or to Office of the Ombudsman, PO Box 10152, Wellington 6143.

Nāku noa, nā,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Erica Stanford'.

Hon Erica Stanford
Minister of Education