

Glenn Pearce
fyi-request-2667-1a1e544c@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Mr Pearce

Thank you for your email of 29 April 2015, submitted via fyi.org.nz, regarding the Western Springs College redevelopment. Specifically, you requested:

All correspondence between and minutes of any meetings held between the Ministry of Education representatives and the senior management and Boards of Trustees of Western Springs College and Pasadena Intermediate, relating to possible options for the upgrade/rebuild/relocation/reconfiguring of these schools and associated timeline.

Your request has been considered under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act). I apologise for the delay in providing you with a response.

The Ministry of Education (the Ministry) is committed to the best possible outcome for all current and future students and staff of Western Springs College. Planning for redevelopment has taken into account the complexity of site issues, the need to ensure safety for current use, the need to consider long-term roll growth, and the sheer scale of the redevelopment.

The Ministry conducted a search of its central records and staff members who have been in communication with Western Springs College and Pasadena Intermediate were asked to search their email records. We assumed a start date of 1 January 2014 for our search.

As a result of this search, the Ministry has identified several hundred emails and associated documents including the minutes of the project control group that are potentially in scope of your request.

Many of these documents contain information that forms part of the business case which has yet to be finalised and presented to the Associate Minister of Education. Many contain information which is either commercially sensitive or would need to be withheld to protect the privacy of individuals. Many more contain portions that may be out of scope of your request, for example dealing with administrative matters or other issues which are related to Western Springs College but not the redevelopment. A significant number of the emails are repetitive as they have been sent to multiple addresses or are part of extensive email chains. In assessing how to treat these documents, the Ministry has decided to refuse this part of your request under section 18(f) of the Act as the information cannot be made available without substantial collation.

The Ministry has decided to release to you all of the project control group meeting minutes from 1 January 2014 until May 2015 as well as formal letters from the Ministry to the Boards of Western Springs College and Pasadena Intermediate, and from these Boards to the Ministry, relating to the redevelopment of Western Springs College.

This is a very significant amount of material. Due to the quantity and size of the files involved it is not practical to upload them to FYI. The Ministry would prefer to provide you with hard copies of the material. Could you please advise us of a suitable postal address that we can forward the material to. You can advise the Ministry of these details by email at enquiries.national@education.org.nz.

These reports contain Ministry presentations which I am releasing to you in full. The presentations contain a range of schematic views of potential layouts that have been conveyed to the school. None of these representations have been agreed or accepted, as they simply indicate how the school might look if it was to be redeveloped.

The Western Springs College Board of Trustees hosted a public meeting on 24 June 2015 to seek the community's views on the redevelopment. At that meeting, the Ministry made a high level presentation. The presentation is going to be published on the Ministry's website shortly. We will contact you to provide an appropriate link once the material has been uploaded.

The next step is to present a business case which will be used to decide what level of investment is required to provide the school and its community with facilities it can be proud of. Once this is known, the Ministry would engage a design team to work with the Ministry and the school to develop architectural plans based on the level of investment that was agreed.

I apologise again for the delay in providing you with a response and for any inconvenience this has caused you.

I trust you find this information useful. Under section 28 of the Act you have the right to ask the Ombudsman to review my response. The Office of the Ombudsman can be contacted at info@ombudsman.parliament.nz, or by writing to PO Box 10-152, Wellington 6143.

Yours sincerely



Kim Shannon
Head of Education Infrastructure Service