



24/09/2024

Patrick Pink

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Tēnā koe Patrick

OIA: 1334984 – Demolition of buildings at Riverdale School

Thank you for your email of 27 August 2024 to the Ministry of Education (the Ministry), via the FYI website, requesting the following information:

All written documents and information about the specific emergency health and safety reasons for the demolition of buildings at Riverdale School in Gisborne during December 2023 to January 2024.

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

Please accept my apologies that your previous requests for information regarding the health and safety reasons for the removal of the BLENNZ team from the Riverdale School building and the demolition of the building have not been responded to.

These buildings were due for replacement and following Cyclone Gabrielle the buildings were identified to as representing an increasing health and safety risk due to water damage and further deterioration. This led to the decision to vacate and demolish the block.

Please find the information in scope of your request attached as **Appendix A**. Please note the following information I am withholding under section 9(2)(a) of the Act, to protect the privacy of natural persons:

- The names and contact details, that are not already publicly available, of non-Ministry and former Ministry staff. I am providing your name as you are the requestor, however other information in the email chain involving yourself includes withheld information due to it being made publicly available on the FYI website.
- The cellphone numbers of Ministry staff.
- Photographs of individuals.
- Please note that some photographs in Document 1 are not visible. These have not been withheld from you, these are also how they appear to the Ministry.



Some financial figures have also been withheld under section 9(2)(j) of the Act, to enable a Minister of the Crown or any public service agency holding the information to carry on, without prejudice or disadvantage, negotiations (including commercial and industrial negotiations).

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.

You can find further information regarding the information I am releasing to you in the **Document Table** below this letter.

Following your consideration of the attached information, please contact me directly should you wish to discuss any element further and I can arrange for the appropriate local property team member or subject matter expert to be available to you.

Please note that we may publish this response on our website after five working days. Your name and contact details in this letter will be removed.

Thank you again for your email. You have the right to ask an Ombudsman to review my decision on your request, in accordance with section 28 of the Act. 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



Sam Fowler
Head of Property
Te Pou Hanganga, Matihiko | Infrastructure and Digital

Document Table

| # | Date | Title | Decision on release |
|----|-------------|--|--|
| 1 | 26 Jun 2023 | Damage Assessment (Gisborne Heavy Rainfall) – Construction Observation | Release in full. |
| 2 | 3 Jul 2023 | FW: Riverdale School | Release in part. Information has been withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the Act. |
| 2A | | RiverdaleSchoolStoutStreet [initials withheld]8_20723e | Release in part. Information has been withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the Act. |
| 3 | 11 Jul 2023 | 20230711 - Comment - Riverdale School - Mould Results - Block B roof | Release in part. Information has been withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the Act. |
| 3A | | RiverdaleSchoolStoutStreet [initials withheld]8_20723e | See Document 2A. |
| 4 | 3 Oct 2023 | RE: Riverdale urgent works | Release in part. Information has been withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the Act. |
| 4A | | Photo's from Riverdale School | Release in part. Information has been withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the Act. Out of scope information has also been withheld. |
| 5 | 4 Oct 2023 | RE: Riverdale urgent works | Release in part. Information has been withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the Act. |
| 6 | 4 Oct 2023 | RE: Riverdale School (Gisborne) Invitation for your school - Ngā iti Kahurangi – small or remote schools programme | Release in part. Information has been withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the Act. |
| 7 | 5 Oct 2023 | Memo: Risk of continued occupation of Cyclone damaged classrooms – Riverdale School, Gisborne | Release in part. Information has been withheld under sections 9(2)(a) and 9(2)(j) of the Act. |
| 8 | 18 Oct 2023 | RE: Riverdale School | Release in part. Information has been withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the Act. Out of scope information has also been withheld. |
| 9 | 31 Oct 2023 | RE: Cobham School - Temp location | Release in part. Information has been withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the Act. |
| 10 | 2 Nov 2023 | RE: Cobham Shift BLENNZ | Release in part. Information has been withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the Act. |
| 11 | 15 May 2024 | Riverdale School Single Stage Business Case | Release in part. In scope information provided in accordance with section 16(1)(e) of the Act. |