



09 DEC 2016

Jeff McClintock
fyi-request-3444-00ce5f96@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Mr McClintock

I refer to your email of 4 December 2015 to the Ministry of Education, in which you requested:

- 1. a copy of recent draft guidelines on Religious Instruction and/or observances in NZ schools.*
- 2. any correspondence on the topic, particularly between the Ministry and school staff, school Principals, and school Boards of Trustees in regard to these guidelines circulated for feedback.*
- 3. any correspondence between the Ministry and Religious Instruction providers or Religious organizations on these guidelines.*

Further to our original response to your request on 16 December 2015, and following notification of the Ombudsman's investigation, the Ministry has now reconsidered your request under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act).

In response to question one, I am continuing to withhold the draft guidelines in full under section 9(2)(f)(iv) of the Act, to protect the confidentiality of the advice that we will be tendering to the Minister.

In response to questions two and three of your request please find attached copies of correspondence. Some information is being withheld under the following sections of the Act:

- 9(2)(a), to protect the privacy of natural persons.
- 9(2)(f)(iv), confidentiality of advice tendered by Ministers of the Crown and officials
- 9(2)(g)(i), in order to maintain the free and frank expression of opinions that are relevant to future government decision-making,
- 9(2)(g)(ii), the protection of such Ministers, members of organizations, officers, and employees from improper pressure or harassment
- 9(2)(h), to maintain legal professional privilege
- 9(2)(i), to enable a Minister of the Crown or any department or organisation holding the information to carry out, without prejudice or disadvantage, commercial activities,

You have the right to ask an Ombudsman to review this decision. You can do this by writing to info@ombudsman.parliament.nz or Office of the Ombudsman, PO Box 10152, Wellington 6143.

I trust that you will find this information helpful.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Pauline Cleaver". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Pauline Cleaver
Associate Deputy Secretary
Early Learning and Student Achievement

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