

12 JAN 2017

Cody C  
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File Ref: 16/00289

Dear Cody C

Thank you for your Official Information Act request, received 30 November 2016. Due to the large amount of work required to check for reported abuse at all New Zealand schools WorkSafe New Zealand has interpreted your request as only relating to the Sara Cohen School and its satellite classes at Concord School and Bathgate Park School:

1. *Does WorkSafe have jurisdiction over NZ Schools from a H&S context? I am assuming for the purpose of this request that WorkSafe does have this responsibility.*
2. *Assuming it has jurisdiction, has WorkSafe investigated abuse by staff members against children at the Sara Cohen School, including its satellite classes at: Concord School and Bathgate School?*
  - a. *If so, please provide the most expeditious details available about these incidences so that I can refine my request further.*
  - b. *If not, given media releases by MOE and the media in recent months, why has WorkSafe not conducted any investigations and are there intentions to do so?*

I can confirm that WorkSafe has jurisdiction over New Zealand schools in a workplace health and safety context.

WorkSafe has not been notified of any abuse as you describe at this school or its satellite classes. Therefore it has not undertaken any investigations.

I am advised that investigations have been conducted into allegations of abuse at the school by Police and the Ministry of Education. These are the appropriate agencies in this instance and you should contact them for details – WorkSafe does not hold that information.

If you require any further information, please contact [uia@worksafe.govt.nz](mailto:uia@worksafe.govt.nz).

Yours sincerely



Phil Parkes  
General Manager – Better Regulation