



13 FEB 2017

Nick Meeten
fyi-request-5125-e34070ab@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Nick

Thank you for your email of 23 December 2016 to the Ministry of Education requesting the following information:

- 1. I would like to receive a copy of the report on possible options for the proposed combined Marlborough Boys and Marlborough Girls colleges site.*

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

When the Ministry conducts a search for the site for relocation of a school, we will often seek advice from the school regarding their key educational criteria for the new location. The identified sites are then evaluated using a standard assessment methodology and the most suitable sites are then shortlisted for further evaluation. Once there is final approval the Ministry is then permitted to enter into negotiations with landowner(s) of the preferred site.

These negotiations are conducted in accordance with the provisions and guidelines of the Public Works Act 1981.

As negotiations are still ongoing and a preferred co-location site has not been finalised I am refusing your request under section 9(2)(i) of the Act, to enable a Minister of the Crown or any department or organisation holding the information to carry out, without prejudice or disadvantage, commercial activities.

While there is considerable public interest in the co-location of the Colleges, in our view, the greater public interest at this time lies in protecting our ability to carry out ongoing negotiations.

Once our negotiations have concluded, and a new site has been acquired, we intend to provide you with a copy of the report. If you have any questions on when the report may be available, you may contact Clive Huggins, National Manager Acquisitions & Designations Land and Property Services, via email at Clive.Huggins@education.govt.nz or by phone on (07) 571 7857.

Thank you again for your email. 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.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Kim Shannon', is positioned above the printed name.

Kim Shannon
Head of Education Infrastructure Service