



Office of Hon Hekia Parata

Minister of Education

Minister of Pacific Island Affairs

27 NOV 2012

J R Lucas

fyi-request-604-8f24c851@requests.fyi.org.nz

Tēnā koe J R Lucas

Thank you for your emails of 13 and 15 October 2012 requesting:

All information you have in relation to the proposals to close or merge schools in Christchurch and the greater Canterbury region; and

Including any information that might support any claims of damage to school facilities or infrastructure, please include any information in regards to school roll numbers that might have played a pivotal role in your decision to close/merge said schools, please include any information that might have been received by you, from professionals and experts in the engineering or building construction field(s) that would support (or for that matter, negate) the claim(s) that any of the buildings at any of the schools were unsafe, and please include ALL documentation you have sent out or given to the affected schools and to the media.

The information you have requested covers a substantial body of documentation. I am therefore considering refusing your request under section 18(f) of the Act on the grounds that the information cannot be made available without substantial collation and research.

I have considered whether fixing a charge under section 15 or extending the time limit under section 15A would enable the request to be granted but have decided it would not.

However, if you narrow the scope of your request then I would consider whether I am able to respond. The Ministry of Education has offered to discuss with you ways that you may be able to do this, noting that much of what you have requested will be released during the consultation process. If you would like to do this please contact: Marilyn Scott 04 463 7765

A good source of information is available on the Ministry of Education's 'Shaping Education' website. <http://shapingeducation.minedu.govt.nz/>.

The Rationale for Change documents for the 38 schools proposed to close or merge on this website may answer many of your questions. You can find these documents at: <http://shapingeducation.minedu.govt.nz/guiding-the-process-of-renewal/renewal-proposals-summary>.

Under sections 19 and 28(3) of the Official Information Act 1982 you have the right to ask an Ombudsman to review this decision.

Heoi anō

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Hekia Parata". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Hekia" and the last name "Parata" clearly distinguishable.

Hon Hekia Parata
Minister of Education