



04 MAY 2018

J Hu

fyi-request-7565-ae5e549c@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear J Hu

Thank you for your email of 5 April 2018 requesting the following information:

- *Any correspondence between Macleans College and the Ministry Of Education which discuss the usage of new 'flexible learning spaces' (also referred to as 'modern learning environments') in the planned science and technology block rebuilds.*

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

When engaging with schools on projects such as this one, we do not insist that teaching spaces be designed one way over another. We work with schools during the design of a new build or redevelopment to provide property solutions that support a school's preferences for how teaching and learning will take place at that school.

We do encourage adaptability and flexibility as a feature of all the spaces we build or update so they can easily be repurposed or evolve as educational needs change over time.

Your request is refused under section 18(e) of the Act, as the information requested does not exist. The Ministry has, however, discussed flexible learning spaces with the school during meetings about the rebuild of the science and technology block.

The decision to replace the science and technology block was made in late 2016 and the Ministry has worked closely with the school on the intended teaching and learning approach in this curriculum area. We are currently in the process of securing a design consultant who will work with the school and the Ministry to develop the design for the building.

The Ministry and school agree that flexibility in the design will support a variety of teaching and learning styles within the space, and future proof the building for years to come.

The design will also align with the Ministry's guidelines for designing quality learning spaces (DQLS), which cover acoustics, indoor air quality, thermal comfort and lighting. These guidelines support design teams to ensure the indoor environment of school buildings support quality education. If you are interested in finding out more about flexible learning spaces and the Ministry's DQLS guidelines, you can access this information on the Ministry website at <http://education.govt.nz/school/property/state-schools/design-standards/flexible-learning-spaces/>.

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I hope that this information is helpful to you. 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



Kim Shannon
Head of Education Infrastructure Service