



s 9(2)(a) OIA

Dear s 9(2)(s)

Thank you for your email to the Ministry of Education of 11 August 2019 requesting the following information about the co-location of Shirley Boys' High School and Avonside Girls' High School on a single site:

- *When the Ministry of Education made the decision to co locate Avonside Girls High School and Shirley Boys High School, what other co-located schools outside of New Zealand was the ministry aware of and/or researched?*
- *As there are no other co-located schools in New Zealand, it would be appreciated if any available data could be provided with the country as well.*
- *I am especially interested in the following sub sets of this data if available:*
  - *Co-located high schools*
  - *Co located single sex high schools*

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

Co-location will provide a significant opportunity for Shirley Boys' High School and Avonside Girls' High Schools to work together, share specialist facilities and resources and support the proposed precinct model of secondary education delivery. They will be able to do this while operating independently, and maintaining their individual characters and focus.

The relocation of both schools is part of our work with Christchurch secondary Principals and the wider Christchurch community to develop a shared and sustainable vision for their secondary education.

### Your request

I am refusing your request under section 18(e) of the Act, as the information requested does not exist.

We did not undertake any original research into the experiences of overseas co-located schools. Recognising there were no examples of co-located single sex schools in New Zealand, local Principals asked us to provide our vision for co-location. For your reference, I have attached a copy of our vision document, titled *Vision for Co-location* to this letter.

For this, we drew in part on a study produced by the National College for Leadership of Schools and Children's Services, now part of the UK Department of Education.

The study, titled *Emerging patterns of leadership: co-location, continuity and community* is publicly available from the University College London's website, at <https://dera.ioe.ac.uk/2088>.

### More information

You may be interested in further information about this matter:

- Information about the consultations around the shape of secondary education in Christchurch is available from our website *Shaping Education*. An overview of decisions can be found at <http://shapingeducation.govt.nz/renewal-final-decisions>
- Supporting information for interim decisions relating to the **Christchurch East Secondary Learning Cluster**, which includes Shirley Boys' and Avonside Girls' is available from <http://shapingeducation.govt.nz/christchurch-east-secondary-learning-community-cluster>
- Shirley Boys' and Avonside Girls' have collaborated on a website titled *Two Schools · One Campus* with information about the new school site, at <http://newcampus.nz>

Thank you again for your request. Under section 28(3) of the Act, you have the right to refer my response to an Ombudsman. You can do this by emailing [info@ombudsman.parliament.govt.nz](mailto:info@ombudsman.parliament.govt.nz).

Yours sincerely



Katrina Casey  
**Deputy Secretary**  
**Sector Enablement and Support**

cc: s 9(2)(a) OIA