



19 SEP 2017

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email of 25 July 2017 to our Media Team in which you request the following information:

1. *a breakdown of items of money spent by the last Aparima College Board of Trustees on employment issues;*
2. *whether Aparima College is paying for its Commissioner itself;*
3. *how much the Aparima College Commissioner has cost thus far;*
4. *the number of schools currently being managed by Commissioners;*
5. *of those schools currently being managed by Commissioners, the breakdown between Primary and Secondary education;*
6. *the length of time that all current Commissioners have been in place;*
7. *the number of schools that are funding their Commissioners themselves; and*
8. *the cost to date of all the current Commissioners' tenures.*

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

Under section 78O(3) of the Education Act 1989, remuneration for Commissioners is set by the Ministry of Education (the Ministry) and paid for out of the relevant Board of Trustees' funds, unless the Ministry determines otherwise (this is due primarily to financial risk to the school in question). In such cases, where there is financial risk to the school which prevents them from paying for some or all of an intervention, the Ministry will review with the appointee the need for financial assistance to reimburse the school the agreed fees and/or expenses.

The Ministry reviews a school's financial risk periodically throughout the time that a Commissioner is in place, and a school can apply for financial assistance at any time should its financial situation deteriorate.

The Ministry negotiates with the Commissioner their hourly rate and the number of hours per month that will be worked (this can be up to a maximum of 120 hours).

On 15 September 2017, we advised that we were transferring to Aparima College both part 1 of your request, and that aspect of part 3 relating to the Commissioner's remuneration.

Individual responses to the parts of your request that we are responding to are given below.

2. whether Aparima College is paying for its Commissioner itself.

Responsibility for payment of the costs incurred by the Commissioner at Aparima College (the College) is split between remuneration, which is paid by the College, and travel expenses, which, since May 2015, have been paid by the Ministry on behalf of the College, at a total cost of \$18,272.11.

Following a Ministry review as to the need for continued intervention at the College, the Commissioner's tenure was continued on 7 September 2017 under section 78N(1)(2) of the Education Act.

4. the number of schools currently being managed by Commissioners.

As at 14 August 2017, 19 schools had a Commissioner in place. Fifteen were dissolved by the Minister of Education or her delegate under section 78N(1) of the Education Act, while the remaining four were dissolved by the Secretary for Education or his/her delegate under section 78N(3) of the Education Act, in which a Board of Trustees (the Board) is dissolved if any of the following constitutional issues arise:

- a. the Board has not held a meeting during the previous three months.
- b. so many casual vacancies have arisen that there is no longer any member of the Board who is eligible to preside at its meetings.
- c. the result of a Board Election is that it has fewer than three trustees elected by parents.
- d. A Board election has not been held as required by this part of the Education Act.
- e. it is impossible or impracticable to discover the results of a Board Election.

5. of those schools currently being managed by Commissioners, the breakdown between Primary and Secondary education.

The table below gives a breakdown of the school type of each of those schools that currently has a Commissioner in place:

Type of School	Total Number
Full Primary (up to Year 8)	10
Contributing (up to Year 6)	2
Intermediate (Years 7 & 8)	2
Secondary (year 9 onwards)	5

6. the length of time that all current Commissioners have been in place.

Appendix A shows, as at 14 August 2017, how long the 19 schools with Commissioners had been in this position. Please note that decisions have been made to revoke the Commissioner status at the following schools, with 2017 election dates for new Boards having been set.

1. Dalefield School;
2. Fairlie Primary School; and

3. Omaha School.

In addition, a decision has been made to revoke Kaikohe Intermediate School's Commissioner status although an election date has not yet been set.

7. *the number of schools that are funding their Commissioners themselves.*

The eight schools that, as at 2 August 2017, were fully funding the costs of their Commissioners are listed in the table below (three of these – Dalefield School, Fairlie Primary School, and Waitaki Boys' High School - have each received some financial assistance from the Ministry at some stage during the course of the intervention).

Number	School
1	Papatoetoe Intermediate School
2	Taita College
3	Te Kura O Hata Maria (Pawarenga)
4	Maungakaramaea School
5	Ngataki School
6	Dalefield School
7	Fairlie Primary School
8	Waitaki Boys' High School

8. *the cost to date of all the current Commissioners' tenures.*

Appendix B shows the amounts as at 2 August 2017, that we had paid to the 14 schools that had received funding from the Ministry to cover the costs of the Commissioner. We are unable to provide information on amounts paid by other parties than the Ministry, and are therefore refusing this aspect of your request under section 18(g) of the Act. To receive this information, you would need to contact each of the individual schools that have paid for some or all of their Commissioner costs.

If you have any questions about this response, please feel free to contact our Media Team at media@education.govt.nz.

Please note that some of our responses made under the Act are published proactively on our website, with names and contact details removed, five working days after being released to requesters.

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



Katrina Casey
Deputy Secretary
Sector Enablement and Support

APPENDIX A

AS AT 14 AUGUST 2017, DURATION IN DAYS OF THOSE 19 SCHOOLS THAT CURRENTLY HAVE COMMISSIONERS IN PLACE

Number	School	Date Commenced	Number of days since Commissioner's commencement
1	Petone Central School	22/12/2016	236
2	Runanga School	4/08/2016	376
3	Natone Park School	10/03/2016	523
4	Papatoetoe Intermediate School	9/12/2016	249
5	Barrytown School	7/07/2016	404
6	Wairarapa College	10/12/2015	614
7	Woodhill School	24/11/2016	264
8	Taita College	29/06/2017	47
9	Waitaki Boys' High School	14/10/2014	1036
10	Omahu School	23/06/2016	418
11	Isla Bank School	20/11/2014	999
12	Aparima College	18/09/2014	1062
13	Te Kura O Hata Maria (Pawarenga)	22/12/2016	236
14	Fairlie Primary School	31/03/2016	502
15	Rangiora High School	26/02/2015	901
16	Kaikohe Intermediate School	29/05/2014	1174
17	Maungakaramea School	3/06/2015	804
18	Ngataki School (combined Board with Te Hapua School)	3/10/2013	1412
19	Dalefield School	7/03/2013	1622

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APPENDIX B

MINISTRY COSTS OF SCHOOLS WITH COMMISSIONERS CURRENTLY IN PLACE

Number	School	Hours of work/travel expenses	Funded from	Funded until	Total cost paid to date (\$NZD)
1	Aparima College	Travel only	May 2015	present	18,272.11
2	Barrytown School	Both	July 2016	present	36,786.89
3	Dalefield School	Both	January 2015	June 2017	68,727.98
4	Fairlie Primary School	Both (plus contracted help – See below)	April 2016	March 2017	114,761.01
5	Isla Bank School	Both	January 2015	present	92,445.40
6	Kaikohe Intermediate School	Both	February 2014	present	161,188.90
7	Natone Park School	Both (plus a contracted investigation – See below)	March 2016	present	102,711.23
8	Omahu School	Both	October 2016	present	11,443.70
9	Petone Central School	Travel only	March 2017	present	2,458.92
10	Rangiora High School	Travel only	February 2015	present	114,854.77
11	Runanga School	Travel only	August 2016	present	23,060.73
12	Wairarapa College	Both (plus contracted help – See below)	December 2015	present	268,165.27
13	Waitaki Boys' High School	Both (plus a contracted investigation – See below)	October 2014	June 2017	161,778.07
14	Woodhill School	Hours only	February 2017	present	18,900.04

Contracted help is where the Commissioner contracts in particular expertise over a period of time (for example specialist legal or financial assistance).

A **contracted investigation** is where the Commissioner contracts an external party to undertake an investigation.

This is as at **2 August 2017**.

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