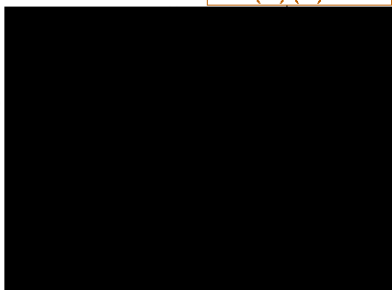




22 MAY 2017

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Thank you for your 18 April 2017 email to the Ministry of Education requesting the following information:

- *Any evaluations, reports, reviews and email correspondence associated with the Salisbury School, including any between the Ministry of Education and Crown Law on the proposed shut down of the Salisbury School.*

I have further questions I would like to ask about this:

- *Why has the Minister delayed her decision on Salisbury School four times?*
- *What advice has she received from Crown Law on her Ministry's proposal to close the school?*
- *When will a final decision be made on the future of the Salisbury School?*

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

Any evaluations, reports, reviews and email correspondence associated with the Salisbury School, including any between the Ministry of Education and Crown Law on the proposed shut down of the Salisbury School.

I am refusing your request for information between the Ministry of Education and Crown Law under section 9(2)(h) of the Act to protect legal professional privilege.

We hold one report within scope of your request for evaluations, reports and reviews. I am refusing this part of your request under section 9(2)(f)(iv) of the Act to protect the confidentiality of advice tendered by Ministers of the Crown and officials. Providing you with email correspondence associated with the school would require substantial collation and research, for this reason I am refusing this part of your request under section 18(f) of the Act.

To keep the public informed on the possible closure of Salisbury School, the Ministry has publicly released information on our website. You can find this at the following link: <https://education.govt.nz/residential-special-schools-information-release-2016/>.

Why has the Minister delayed her decision on Salisbury School four times?

During the consultation process, the Ministry of Education received 111 submissions on the future of Salisbury School. At a further meeting with the Board of Salisbury School, it asked the Minister to further examine the safety of students at Halswell Residential College. Due to the complexity of the issues raised, and the importance of the decision, this process has not been rushed and the issues, and advice on options is being thoroughly considered.

The Ministry has prepared advice to inform the decision making process about Salisbury School's future, including feedback from the school's Board of Trustees and submissions from the wider community.

The Minister is committed to making a decision that will ensure students continue to receive the resources and support they need.

What advice has she received from Crown Law on her Ministry's proposal to close the school?

I am refusing this part of your request under section 9(2)(h) of the Act to protect legal professional privilege.

When will a final decision be made on the future of the Salisbury School?

The Hon Nikki Kaye who became Minister of Education on 2 May 2017, will review the consultation documentation and advice prepared by the Ministry prior to making a decision about the future of the school. Due to the complexity of the issues, the Minister will consider all information presented to her thoroughly to ensure students continue to receive the resources and support they need.

The former Minister of Education, Hon Hekia Parata informed the school community that the school will remain open for the remainder of 2017.

We have considered the public interest in releasing to you the information withheld however consider there is greater public interest in withholding the information. To satisfy the public interest, we have publicly released information on our website.

Thank you again for your request. If you have any further questions please feel free to contact our Media Team in the first instance at media.team@education.govt.nz. If you are still unsatisfied with my response, you have the right to ask an Ombudsman to review it. 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