



15/03/2023



Tēnā koe 

OIA: 1303760 – Auckland weather event

Thank you for your email of 1 February 2023 to the Ministry of Education (the Ministry) requesting the following information:

All communication and advice created by and given to the Ministry of Education regarding the opening and closure of schools, kura, ECE centres and tertiary institutes in Auckland between 27 January and 1 February.

This includes but is not limited to: emails, reports, documents, meeting minutes, meeting agendas, risk assessments and communications with schools and/or principal associations.

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

I note that, by email of 10 February 2023, you declined the Ministry's invitation to refine your request, stating:

I would not like to narrow the scope of my request regarding school closure communication over a six day period. My original OIA request stands.

As regards the part of your request that relates to advice over the period in question, I am providing you with the Ministry's Situation Reports, which were provided to the Minister of Education and the Secretary for Education on a daily basis. These are attached as **Appendix A**. I am withholding some information from these documents under section 9(2)(a) of the Act, to protect the privacy of natural persons.

Per section 9(1) of the Act, I have considered the public interest favouring release of the information proposed to be withheld, and concluded that this does not outweigh the need to withhold the information at this time.

In terms of communications and meetings as events unfolded, I am providing, as **Appendix B**, a detailed timeline of events and key communications over the period leading up to the Direction and the subsequent decision to lift this. I am releasing this information in line with the provisions of



section 16(1)(e) of the Act, which states that, where the information requested is comprised in a document, it may be made available by giving an excerpt or summary of the contents.

This decision has been made on the basis that, due to the extreme weather events following the Auckland flooding, the individuals needed to collate and consider the requested information have been dealing with the events themselves, including emergency officials who have been managing a state of emergency during this time. Under the circumstances, we considered it unreasonable to expect them to prioritise information requests over the needs of their whānau and communities and their professional responsibilities.

Please note, we may publish this response on our website after five working days. Your name and contact details will be removed.

You have the right to ask an Ombudsman to review my decision on your request, in accordance with section 28 of the Act. You can do this by writing to info@ombudsman.parliament.nz or to Office of the Ombudsman, PO Box 10152, Wellington 6143.

Thank you again for your email. If you have further questions please feel free to contact our media team in the first instance at media.team@education.govt.nz.

Nāku noa, nā



Lorraine Monahan

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