

8/02/2024



OIA: 1319505 – Nationwide email threats of November 2023

Thank you for your email of 28 November 2023 to the Ministry of Education (the Ministry) requesting the following information:

1. *All internal communication relating to the nationwide email threat on November 23, 2023 and November 24, 2023.*
2. *The email sent with the threat*
3. *Communication to/from any government agencies - e.g. Police*

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

I have interpreted **part one** of your request to be for all internal Ministry correspondence relating to the nationwide threats received by email at New Zealand schools on 24 November 2023. I have identified 33 documents within scope of **parts one and two** of your request. I am releasing one of these documents in full and 32 in part with some information withheld, as set out below. These documents are attached as **Appendix A** and outlined in the **Appendix A Document Table** below.

I have interpreted **part three** of your request to be for all correspondence between the Ministry and other government agencies relating to the nationwide threats received by email at New Zealand schools on 24 November 2023. I have identified 12 documents within scope of **part three** of your request. I am releasing these in part with some information withheld, as set out below. These documents are attached as **Appendix B and Appendix C**, and outlined in the **Appendix B, and C Document Tables** below.

Some information in the Appendices has been withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the Act, to protect the privacy of natural persons, and section 6(2)(c) of the Act, as the making available of that information would be likely to prejudice the maintenance of the law, including the prevention, investigation, and detection of offences. Some information has been removed as out of scope of the request.

As required under section 9(1) of the Act, I have considered the public interest in releasing the information withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the Act. I do not consider the public interest

considerations favouring the release of this information are sufficient to outweigh the need to withhold it at this time.

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

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Isabel Evans', is positioned above the printed name.

Isabel Evans
Hautū | Deputy Secretary
Te Mahau | Te Tai Raro (North)

Appendix A Document Table

| # | Date | Title | Decision on release |
|----|------------------|---|---|
| 1 | 24 November 2023 | RE: re bomb threat at Mairangi Bay School | Release in part. Information has been withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the Act. |
| 2 | 24 November 2023 | Batphone... | Release in part. Information has been withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the Act. |
| 3 | 24 November 2023 | Re: BATPHONE – Bomb alert – Waitoki school | Release in part. Information has been withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the Act. |
| 4 | 24 November 2023 | Re: Batphone - Police responding to the school's below | Release in part. Information has been withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the Act. |
| 5 | 24 November 2023 | Situation. | Release in part. Information has been withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the Act. |
| 6 | 24 November 2023 | RE: Batphone – Police responding to the school's below | Release in part. Information has been withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the Act. |
| 7 | 24 November 2023 | Email | Release in part. Information has been withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the Act. |
| 8 | 24 November 2023 | RE: multiple bomb threats to schools on the north shore | Release in part. Information has been withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the Act. |
| 9 | 24 November 2023 | RE: Batphone - call #3 - message to be sent to schools | Release in part. Information has been withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the Act. |
| 10 | 24 November 2023 | RE: Re: Bomb threats - Tamaki schools | Release in part. Information has been withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the Act. |
| 11 | 24 November 2023 | Email Message to send to ALL Schools in Tānagata | Release in part. Information has been withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the Act. |
| 12 | 24 November 2023 | FW: Potential Email Threats | Release in part. Information has been withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the Act. |

| # | Date | Title | Decision on release |
|------|------------------|--|--|
| 13 | 24 November 2023 | RE: Potential Email Threats | Release in part. Information has been withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the Act. |
| 14 | 24 November 2023 | FW: Potential Email Threats | Release in part. Information has been withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the Act. |
| 15 | 24 November 2023 | re school closures | Release in part. Information has been withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the Act. |
| 16 | 24 November 2023 | RE: Sit Report | Release in part. Information has been withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the Act. |
| 17 | 24 November 2023 | For sit report please due soon | Release in part. Information has been withheld under sections 6(2)(c) and 9(2)(a) of the Act. |
| 17.1 | 24 November 2023 | SOI-1227 – Schools receiving the email | Withhold in full. Information has been withheld under section 6(2)(c) of the Act. |
| 18 | 24 November 2023 | RE: URGENT - bomb threat emails | Release in part. Information has been withheld under sections 6(2)(c) and 9(2)(a) of the Act. |
| 19 | 24 November 2023 | RE: NCEA impact with closure... | Release in part. Information has been withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the Act. |
| 20 | 24 November 2023 | RE: Bomb threat email | Release in part. Information has been withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the Act. |
| 21 | 24 November 2023 | RE: Wentworth School | Release in part. Information has been withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the Act. |
| 22 | 24 November 2023 | RE: ESW work impacted by closures following bomb threats | Release in part. Information has been withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the Act. |
| 23 | 24 November 2023 | RE: ACTION REQUIRED: Any Update on Current Situation - Deadline 1:30pm | Release in part. Information has been withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the Act. |

| # | Date | Title | Decision on release |
|------|------------------|---|---|
| 24 | 24 November 2023 | FW: Situation Report 1- Email threats received in Tāmaki Makaurau | Release in part. Information has been withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the Act. |
| 24.1 | 24 November 2023 | Situation report 1 | Release in part. Information has been withheld under sections 6(2)(c) and 9(2)(a) of the Act. |
| 25 | 24 November 2023 | RE: ACTION REQUIRED: Any Update on Current Situation - Deadline 1:30pm | Release in part. Information has been withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the Act. |
| 26 | 24 November 2023 | RE: MOE webpage.. | Release in part. Information has been withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the Act and removed as out of scope. |
| 27 | 24 November 2023 | Re: Nothing further - Schools transport - for the 1.30pm sit report.... | Release in part. Information has been withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the Act. |
| 28 | 24 November 2023 | RE: NCEA impact with closure... | Release in part. Information has been withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the Act. |
| 29 | 24 November 2023 | Emails to schools. | Release in part. Information has been withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the Act. |
| 30 | 24 November 2023 | FW: Situation Report 2- Email threats received in Tāmaki Makaurau | Release in part. Information has been withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the Act. |
| 30.1 | 24 November 2023 | Situation report 2 | Release in part. Information has been withheld under sections 6(2)(c) and 9(2)(a) of the Act. |
| 31 | 24 November 2023 | Information about emails and Police advice on our website now... | Release in part. Information has been withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the Act. |
| 32 | 28 November 2023 | RE: FOR INFORMATION ONLY: Situation Reports from Friday's Incident (Email to Schools) | Release in part. Information has been withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the Act. |
| 33 | 28 November 2023 | Scan-to-Me | Release in full. |

| # | Date | Title | Decision on release |
|------|------|--------------------------------------|---|
| 33.1 | | Emergency Phone Lock Down Call Sheet | Release in part. Information has been withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the Act. |

Appendix B Document Table

| # | Date | Title | Decision on release |
|-----|------------------|---|--|
| 1 | 23 November 2023 | SOI-1227 - Concerning Emails sent to NZ Schools | Release in part. Information has been withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the Act. |
| 2 | 24 November 2023 | RE: 50 x Bomb Events in Tamaki Makaurau | Release in part. Information has been withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the Act. |
| 3 | 24 November 2023 | Re: [TLP:AMBER] SOI-1227 - Email Threats delivered to Schools | Release in part. Information has been withheld under sections 6(2)(c) and 9(2)(a) of the Act. |
| 4 | 24 November 2023 | FW: Screen Shot of Threat to Woodhill School | Release in part. Information has been withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the Act. |
| 4.1 | | Screenshot 2023-11-24 at 9.13.42 AM.png | Withhold in full. Information has been withheld under section 6(2)(c) of the Act. |
| 4.2 | | Screenshot 2023-11-24 at 9.13.51 AM.png | Withhold in full. Information has been withheld under section 6(2)(c) of the Act. |
| 5 | 24 November 2023 | For 2pm sit report pls | Release in part. Information has been withheld under sections 6(2)(c) and 9(2)(a) of the Act. |
| 6 | 24 November 2023 | From N4L for sit report | Release in part. Information has been withheld under sections 6(2)(c) and 9(2)(a) of the Act. |
| 7 | 24 November 2023 | Re: [TLP:AMBER] SOI-1227 - Email Threats delivered to Schools | Release in part. Information has been withheld under sections 6(2)(c) and 9(2)(a) of the Act. |
| 8 | 24 November 2023 | Re: [TLP:AMBER] SOI-1227 - Email Threats - N4L update 13:15 24/11 | Release in part. Information has been withheld under sections 6(2)(c) and 9(2)(a) of the Act. |
| 9 | 24 November 2023 | Re: [TLP:AMBER] SOI-1227 - Email Threats - N4L update 13:15 24/11 | Release in part. Information has been withheld under sections 6(2)(c) and 9(2)(a) of the Act. |

| # | Date | Title | Decision on release |
|----|------------------|--|--|
| 10 | 27 November 2023 | RE: [TLP:AMBER] SOI-1227 - Email Threats - N4L update 08:30 27/11 | Release in part. Information has been withheld under sections 6(2)(c) and 9(2)(a) of the Act. |
| 11 | 27 November 2023 | RE: [TLP:AMBER] SOI-1227 - Email Threats - N4L update 16:45 27/11 | Release in part. Information has been withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the Act. |
| 12 | 28 November 2023 | RE: [TLP:AMBER] SOI-1227 - Email Threats - N4L update 08:30 28/11/23 | Release in part. Information has been withheld under sections 9(2)(a) of the Act. |

Appendix C Document Table

| # | Date | Title | Decision on release |
|---|------------------|---|--|
| 1 | 24 November 2023 | Text messages between the Ministry and Police | Release in part. Information has been withheld under sections 9(2)(a) of the Act. |
| 2 | 24 November 2023 | Text messages between Ministry employees | Release in full. |
| 3 | 24 November 2023 | Text messages between Ministry employees | Release in full. |
| 4 | 24 November 2023 | Text messages between Ministry employees | Release in full. |