



15 April 2020

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[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Tēnā koe [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email of 6 April 2020 to the Ministry of Education requesting the following information:

- 1. Was there a notice sent to schools by the Secretary of Education or other education official notifying them of the emergency change to Term 2 dates? If there was, may I please be provided with a copy of the notice or a hyperlink to its location online?*
- 2. Has the Secretary of Education, or any official on her behalf, used her power under the new Part 33A of the Education Act 1989 to direct institutions in relation to COVID-19 measures, or are any pending? If so, what are the directions?*
- 3. Can you confirm that the reason for the extension of the elections for the Halsey Drive and Henderson Valley Schools was due to the COVID-19 outbreak?*

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

The notice to schools advising of the change to holiday dates was published in the 23 March School Bulletin, this is available on the Ministry of Education website at: <https://mailchi.mp/01e1f9beeafb/covid-19-update-23-march-2020>

As at 9 April 2020 the Secretary for Education has not used her power under Part 33A of the Education Act 1989.

An extension to the elections was approved for two schools due to pressure on the postal system during the Covid-19 lockdown.

The returning officer had checked with New Zealand Post that deliveries were still operating. New Zealand Post confirmed that deliveries were continuing but that there might be some delays due to the impact of COVID-19 on mail processes.

Please note, the Ministry now proactively publishes OIA responses on our website. As such, we may publish this response on our website after five working days. Your name and contact details will be removed.

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](mailto:info@ombudsman.parliament.nz) or Office of the Ombudsman, PO Box 10152, Wellington 6143.

Nāku noa, nā

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K. Casey', with a long, sweeping underline.

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