



3 November 2022

John Luke
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Tēnā koe John

Thank you for your email of 7 October 2022 to the Ministry of Education requesting the following information:

I have made a request earlier this year

<https://fyi.org.nz/request/17756-new-dispute-resolution-panel-to-hear-complaints-about-state-school-board-decisions-v2#incoming-68834>

May I kindly request if you have any updates on my original request and if any new timeline been set to implementing this. It has been almost a year now, are there any communications or emails sent to minister office regarding this matter? If so, please provide the copies.

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

There have been no further updates since our last letter to you of 16 December 2021, as the funding required to establish dispute resolution panels is not yet available.

Through Budget 2022, funding was directed to initiatives that support schools to create safe and inclusive learning environments, which will give schools the tools to support positive behaviour and mitigate and resolve conflict at a school level. This includes a \$40 million Regional Response Fund, designed to support engagement in learning.

An extra \$18.9 million was also put into the Positive Behaviour for Learning Programme, to ensure it is incorporating the most up to date research and is tailored to the New Zealand context. Initiatives such as these are designed to resolve issues between students, schools and whānau before panel intervention is needed.

Funding for the establishment of dispute resolution panels will be considered as a part of future Budget processes.

You have also asked for any communications or emails sent to the Minister's office regarding this matter since your last request. In the past year, various documents have been prepared relating to the establishment of panels and their potential funding. I am withholding these under section 9(2)(f)(iv) of the Act, to maintain the constitutional conventions for the time being which protect the confidentiality of advice tendered by officials to Ministers.

For your reference, please see the following publicly released responses related to disputes resolution panels.

Paper	Location	References
OIA request response: 22 January 2021	Ministry website https://www.education.govt.nz/assets/Uploads/1244863-OIA-dispute-panels.pdf	Responds to a request for information that led to announcement about formation of dispute panels, how learners will have a stronger voice, and how the panels will work.
OIA request: 15 April 2021	Ministry website https://assets.education.govt.nz/public/Documents/our-work/information-releases/responses-to-Official-Information-Act-requests/1250948-response-drp.pdf	Responds to request relating to the process that led to inclusion of dispute resolution panels in the Education and Training Bill; and information relation to the development of new panels.

Please note, the Ministry now proactively publishes official information 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 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.

Nāku noa, nā



Ben O'Meara
Group Manager
Te Puna Kaupapahere | Policy