



24/11/2023

Mal Robertson

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Tēnā koe Mal

OIA: 1319001 – Limited Statutory Manager at Hokitika Primary School

Thank you for your email of 27 October 2023 to the Ministry of Education (the Ministry) requesting the following information:

Could you please provide any and all information relating to the decision to make the recent appointment of a Limited Statutory Manager at Hokitika Primary School? I am particularly interested in any risks to the safety of children that may have been identified at the school, however any information relating to the appointment would be appreciated.

In addition, could you please explain why the gazetted notice of LSM appointment (9 August) refers to the school as a college?

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

Please find three documents attached as **Appendix A**, as set out in the **Appendix A Document Table** below. These documents outline the decision to appoint a Limited Statutory Manager (LSM) at Hokitika Primary School. Please note, some information has been withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the Act, to protect the privacy of natural persons.

As required under section 9(1) of the Act, I have considered the public interest in releasing the information withheld. 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.

The relationship between the school board and the Principal at Hokitika Primary School has broken down, and has impacted on the board's ability to govern. This breakdown was identified to be a risk to the operation of the school.

The board of Hokitika Primary School unanimously voted to request LSM support from the Ministry. The Ministry decided to appoint an LSM for the school after Ministry officials met with the board to discuss how statutory intervention could help the school.

The Gazette notice can be found here: <https://gazette.govt.nz/notice/id/2023-go2446>. I note there is no reference in the notice of Hokitika Primary School being a college.

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



Kayne Good
**Director, Office of the Hautū
Te Mahau | Te Tai Runga (South)**

Appendix A Document Table

#	Date	Document Type	Title	Decision on release
1	19 May 2023	Email	Re: Invitation to discuss further supports available for Hokitika Primary School	Release in part. Information has been withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the Act.
2	12 June 2023	Letter	Notice of Statutory Intervention	Release in part. Information has been withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the Act.
3		Terms of Appointment	Terms of Appointment	Release in part. Information has been withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the Act.