

3 1 AUG 2015

Liam Stoneley
fyi-request-2961-0e879cd1@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Mr Stoneley

Thank you for your email of 20 July 2015 regarding the New Zealand Herald article by Lynley Bilby on schools facing legal action. You requested:

1. *The legal advice drafted and referred to in the below article; and*
2. *Any other relevant documents or reports regarding legal advice to Schools.*

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

The advice referred to in the New Zealand Herald article has not yet been completed. Crown Law is drafting this advice and I note that you have also requested this information from Crown Law. Once completed, it will provide it to the Ministry of Education. I am therefore refusing this part of your request under section 18(g)(i) of the Act, as the Ministry does not hold the information requested.

There are no documents in scope of the second part of your request. When a school approaches the Ministry seeking legal advice, we direct it to the New Zealand Trustees Association (NZSTA), as the NZSTA is contracted to support school boards of trustees in these situations. For these reasons I am also refusing this part of your request under section 18(e) of the Act.

If you have any further questions regarding support for schools, please do not hesitate to contact national.enquiries@education.govt.nz.

You have the right to ask an Ombudsman to review it. You can do this by writing to info@ombudsman.parliament.nz or Office of the Ombudsman, PO Box 10152, Wellington 6143.

Yours sincerely



Sean Teddy
Director, Office of the Secretary for Education