

0 1 DEC 2015

Pamela Absolum
fyi-request-3390-7bf25f9e@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Ms Absolum

Thank you for your emails of 24 November 2015 to the Ministry of Education requesting information about Rangiora High School. You requested the following:

- *In relation to Rangiora High School Board of Trustees, did the Ministry of Education contact previous Board of Trustee's Chair Matt James directly prior to his resignation from the Board in 2014? If so, then I would like a copy of correspondence from both parties.*
- *In relation to Rangiora High School, did the Ministry of Education contact previous Board of Trustee's Ross Sparks directly prior to his resignation from the Board in 2014? If so, then I would like a copy of the correspondence from both parties.*
- *In relation to Rangiora High School Board of Trustees, did the Ministry of Education contact previous Board of Trustee's Jo Ashby directly prior to her resignation from the Board in 2014. If so, then I would like a copy of correspondence from both parties.*

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

The Ministry has searched its records for written and electronic correspondence relating to former Rangiora High School Board of Trustee members, Matt James, Ross Sparks and Jo Ashby. We can find no record of correspondence to these individuals directly prior to their resignations.

Ministry staff also advise that no verbal contact was made with the former trustees directly prior to their resignations. For this reason I am declining your request under section 18(e) of the Act, as the information you have requested does not exist.

The vast majority of school Boards of Trustees operate successfully but a small number sometimes encounter difficulties they cannot resolve without help. The specific circumstances and causes of those difficulties will vary between schools. Most issues come under a number of broad headings including relationships, employment, finance and curriculum and the reasons for an intervention, such as appointing a Commissioner, will involve one or a combination of these issues.

The Ministry supports school Boards to resolve issues themselves, and only intervene as a last resort when we have reasonable grounds to believe that the operation of the school or the welfare or educational performance of the students is at risk.

The Commissioner is working with the school's management team, staff and community to ensure the school continues to provide high-quality education to all students. The Ministry will continue to support the school and I look forward to Rangiora High School returning to full self governance as soon as practicable.

If you are unhappy with this response 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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Katrina Casey', written over a diagonal line that extends from the top left towards the bottom right.

Katrina Casey
Deputy Secretary
Sector Enablement and Support