



Our Ref: OIA-26-412

6 May 2026

Phillip Fry

[fyi-request-34441-8c4a4be8@requests.fyi.org.nz](mailto:fyi-request-34441-8c4a4be8@requests.fyi.org.nz)

Dear Phillip,

**Re: Official Information Act request for the reform of ERO's school reports**

I refer to your email to the Education Review Office dated 9 April 2026 requesting the following information under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA):

- 1. Confirmation of whether any evidence reviews, research summaries, or internal advice were prepared that assessed whether the proposed reporting format (including simplified judgements or colour-coded summaries) would support school improvement and equitable outcomes.*
- 2. If such information exists, confirmation of that fact. I am not requesting copies of the material at this stage.*
- 3. If no such information exists, confirmation that no such analysis or advice was created or relied upon in developing the reporting framework.*

ERO's new school reports do not represent a change in our review methodology. We continue to use Te Ara Huarau, which focuses on working alongside schools to understand their context and support improvement over time. Reporting formats are most effective when they are embedded within a broader evaluation and improvement system that includes professional dialogue, high quality narrative feedback, school self-review, and targeted support. All of which are fundamental parts of ERO Te Ara Huarau methodology. This approach ensures our reports are a tool that can drive improvement, which are most effective when they are well understood.

Changes to the reports were driven in part by feedback from parents that previous reports were unclear and relied too heavily on education jargon, limiting their ability to engage with their children's schools. The new reports are designed to be more accessible, enabling parents to better understand the quality of education their children are receiving, make informed choices, and effectively support and challenge their school. Across OECD systems, research synthesis shows that simplified or colour coded summaries improve accessibility and parent comprehension.

Advice to the Minister of Education on these changes, along with summaries of the feedback received, will be made publicly available on ERO's website.

Please note that it is our policy to proactively release our responses to official information requests where possible. We do not publish requesters' personal information.



EDUCATION REVIEW OFFICE  
Te Tari Arotake Mātauranga

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this decision. Information about how to make a complaint is available at <http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz> or freephone 0800 802 602.

Ngā mihi,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Booyesen".

Shelley Booyesen  
**Deputy Chief Executive – Review and Improvement Services**