



MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

Te Tāhuhu o te Mātauranga

13 August 2012

National Office

Schooling Policy
45-47 Pipitea St
WELLINGTON 6140
New Zealand

Phone: 04 463 8000
Fax 04 4638001
www.minedu.govt.nz

File: Metis 691769

Alex Harris
fyi-request-388-
c97365db@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Alex Harris

Thank you for your letter of 16 July 2012 requesting the following information:

“How is section 162 of the Education Act 1964 enforced? How is it monitored? Does the Ministry centralise the oversight of such affirmations of allegiance, or does it leave it to individual schools?”

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

Any enforcement of this requirement is up to individual school boards of trustees as the employers of teachers. Neither the Ministry of Education nor the New Zealand Teachers Council maintain a centralised oversight of such affirmations, or enforce or monitor them.

In 1921, the main arguments behind introducing the requirement for teachers to swear allegiance to the Crown centred on their role in shaping the minds of children as future citizens of the British Empire. This is now no longer a key consideration for our society.

In 2005, the Oaths Modernisation Bill was introduced into Parliament. Among other things, it proposed the repeal of section 162 of the Education Act 1964. The Bill was referred to the Government Administration Select Committee which received no submissions opposing the repeal of the teachers' oath of allegiance. The Bill was reported back in March 2006 but still awaits a second reading.

Yours sincerely

Frances Kelly
Group Manager
Schooling Policy