



- 1 AUG 2018

Matthew Hooton
fyi-request-8218-a84417ef@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Mr Hooton

Thank you for your emails of 4 July 2018 to the Ministry of Education (the Ministry) requesting information about meetings held and schools visited by former Ministers of Education and Prime Ministers. Complete copies of your requests are attached for ease of reference.

Your requests have been considered under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act).

Over the time period covered by your request, the Ministry has utilised a number of systems and processes to archive briefing notes and/or records relating to school visits and sector group meetings. Locating information potentially in scope of your requests would necessitate a comprehensive search of the Ministry's various electronic and hard copy filing systems over a more than 30 year period. The searches would need to cover information provided to 18 different individuals, relating to six sector groups and, potentially, over 2,500 schools. Significant consultations would also be required in order to determine whether the visit or meeting referred to in a document in fact took place. Attempting to collate this information would be a hugely time-consuming task to undertake with little prospect of reliable results. I am therefore refusing your requests under section 18(f) of the Act as responding to your requests would require substantial collation and research.

Given the amount of work involved in locating, collating and verifying the requested information, we do not consider refining your request, fixing a charge or extending the time limit for responding would mitigate the administrative burden associated with responding to your request.

Thank you again for your emails. You have the right to ask an Ombudsman to review this decision. You can do this by writing to info@ombudsman.parliament.nz or Office of the Ombudsman, PO Box 10152, Wellington 6143.

Yours sincerely

Joana Johnston
Group Manager
Government, Executive and Ministerial Services