

22 June 2018



EDUCATION COUNCIL
NEW ZEALAND | Matatū Aotearoa

Thank you for your anonymous request for information under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), via the FYI website. You asked for:

- *a copy of the Teacher Code of Conduct relevant for the period Dec 15 - June 16.*
- *a copy of the Education Council's internal policy, procedures and guidelines to your complaint investigators.*

As the Office of the Ombudsman has confirmed, we are entitled to ensure the eligibility of all requesters of information for the purposes of the Act, and will continue to do so. In the meantime, it is disappointing that despite our genuine efforts to expedite this matter by providing your advocate with information about your request, you have instead responded with requests for information, all of which are publicly available. Again, despite our attempts to be helpful, you have suggested that we are somehow not acting in good faith, and that we may be deliberately withholding what is easily accessed, publicly available information. That is simply not correct.

However, as your advocate is now known to us, and has explained the reasons why anonymity is requested, we are willing to respond. As we explained to your advocate in a previous, direct communication, the relevant teacher codes of conduct for 2015 that you requested are at the links shown below. Your advocate's assertion that these links are broken is wrong. They have always been fully functional on our website. We also explained that as this information is publicly available, section 18(d) of the Act provides good reason for refusing your request. You can access the publicly available information yourself. However, in order to be helpful, we did provide it to your advocate, and you can find the information again at:

<https://educationcouncil.org.nz/sites/default/files/coe-poster-english.pdf>, and
<https://educationcouncil.org.nz/sites/default/files/Practising%20teacher%20criteria%20English.pdf>.

The Education Council's internal policy, procedures, and guidelines concerning Conduct, Competence and Impairment processes, as well as CAC, Competence Authority and Disciplinary Tribunal processes are also shown on our website and may be found at:

<https://educationcouncil.org.nz/content/conduct-competence>.

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Again, under s18(d) of the Act we have no obligation to provide you with information that is publicly available and readily accessible by you.

Finally, you have suggested that there is 'significant' public discontent in the conduct of the Education Council.' We are not aware of significant public discontent, but if you have evidence of this, please let me know.

If you are not satisfied with my response, you have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman, who can be contacted by writing to: The Ombudsman, PO Box 10152, Wellington 6143, or emailing: info@ombudsman.parliament.nz.

Yours sincerely



Pauline Barnes
Manager Professional Responsibility