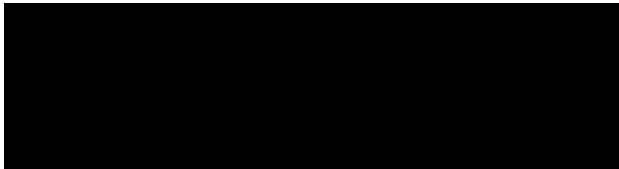


Our Refs: OIA 20- 49

12 October 2020



Tena Koe 

Official information Act request - ERO's new methodology for schools

Thank you for your email dated 13 September 2020 requesting under the Official Information Act “all of the consultation processes, meetings etc and the participants that allow ERO to say the *(proposed schools review methodology)* has been developed in consultation with the sector”.

The following information was provided to Northland principals between September 14 and September 25 at nine events in different locations across Tai Tokerau. I appreciate you were unable to attend any of these sessions.

ERO explained to your colleagues that the proposed approach was developed taking into account a range of information and feedback provided by the sector, both prior and subsequent to the publication of the report of the Tomorrow’s Schools Independent Taskforce.

In addition to the Taskforce conversations ERO has had regular engagement with the sector over recent years across our three regions, has continued to meet with national organisations including groups such as NZPF, SPANZ and NZSTA. We also collect feedback from school principals and Board Chairs at the completion of a review via a post review questionnaire, and through periodic independently held focus groups.

As you are aware the Taskforce report included extensive consultation with principals including consideration of the role of the Education Review Office. The Government’s response to the Taskforce committed to ERO reassessing its approach to school reviews.

At the beginning of this year ERO established a Principal’s advisory group consisting of senior leaders from six schools from across New Zealand. This has included primary, intermediate and secondary school representation. This reference group has shaped our thinking and the proposed new approach. This group has also been joined by those senior school leaders who are part of ERO’s Leadership Partners programme.

In addition to principal representation we have also had focus groups with parents about what they are looking for from ERO review approach.

Over recent months we have also met and discussed the new approach with over 50 principal groups across the country (the list of which is attached – Attachment 1). I attach to this letter (Attachment 2) some of the comments and feedback that we have received from these sessions.

Privacy considerations means that we are unable to provide you with the names of principals and senior leaders involved in these events without their permission.

The above discussion and feedback from schools and school leaders has been harnessed to develop a framework that incorporates those aspects of the review experience that principals have identified as a positive drive that supports school improvement, and to address those parts of the review process principals indicated do not add value.

Implementation of the new approach will be undertaken with schools iteratively, building a co-constructed approach with a sample of 25 schools per region (75 in total). Feedback from this work will be used to refine and develop the approach to ensure it adds real value for the schools community, its Boards and senior leadership team. There will be independent external evaluation which sits alongside this work.

The new approach does not involve turning up every couple of months at schools. Rather, it will involve a differentiated approach with the nature and level of involvement determined in a collaborative way with resources being provided to those schools where support is needed the most. The starting point for our engagement will be understanding the schools own improvement focus and valued student outcomes. An ongoing relationship with schools will provide us with the opportunity to better understand your context and the priorities of your whanau and community.

Feedback from many of your colleagues has been positive, they see merit in this approach, and they have welcomed the opportunity for dialogue and discussion.

I would like to thank you for meeting with me on September 16 and I look forward to your further input in terms of shaping an ERO approach to school review.

Nga mihi

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Tanner'.

Steve Tanner
Director Review and Improvement Services Northern