

Thank you for your email of 8 November 2017 to the Ministry of Education requesting the following information:

1. *How many Northland schools, including kura currently have commissioners in place of a Board of Trustees?*
2. *How long is the longest tenure of a commissioner at a school in Northland currently, and which school is this at please?*
3. *Are there any schools that have a commissioner now, that have had a commissioner in the past, if so which schools are these?*

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

By far the majority of schools operate successfully, but a small number develop difficulties that they cannot resolve without outside help. We always work with schools to support them to resolve problems themselves, and only intervene as a last resort.

Where we do step in, an intervention aims to bring expertise and fresh perspective. It also acts as a circuit breaker for entrenched problems, so that the focus of the school can go back on teaching and learning. The aim is to return the school to full self-governance.

You can find further information on the roles and functions for statutory interventions on the Ministry's website at: www.education.govt.nz/school/running-a-school/interventions-in-schools-and-kura/.

Question One

How many Northland schools, including kura currently have commissioners in place of a Board of Trustees?

As of 31 October 2017, there are currently three commissioner interventions in four Northland schools. These interventions are applied either to a Board of Trustees that administers one school or a Combined Board of Trustees that administers two or more schools.

These schools are:

- Ngataki School (applied to the Combined Board of Ngataki School and Te Hapua School)
- Te Hapua School (applied to the Combined Board of Ngataki School and Te Hapua School)
- Maungakaramea School
- Te Kura O Hata Maria (Pawarenga)

Question Two

How long is the longest tenure of a commissioner at a school in Northland currently, and which school is this at please?

The Commissioner currently replacing the Combined Board for Ngataki School and Te Hapua School has the longest tenure. He was appointed as the Commissioner for Te Hapua School on 5 September 2013 and appointed as Commissioner for Ngataki School on 3 October 2013.

The boards of the two schools were combined on 10 July 2014 and the Commissioner remained in place as the Commissioner for the Combined Board of Ngataki School and Te Hapua School.

Question Three

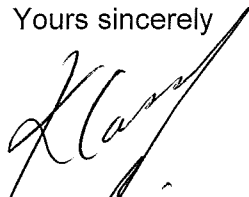
Are there any schools that have a commissioner now, that have had a commissioner in the past, if so which schools are these?

Other than Ngataki and Te Hapua Schools, as mentioned above, no other schools in Northland that currently have a commissioner have had a commissioner in the past.

Please note, the Ministry now proactively publishes OIA responses on our website. As such, we may publish this response on our website after five working days. Your name and contact details will be removed.

Thank you again for your email. If you have further questions please feel free to contact our media team in the first instance at media@education.govt.nz. If you are unsatisfied with my response, you have the right to ask an Ombudsman to review it. You can do this by writing to info@ombudsman.parliament.nz or Office of the Ombudsman, PO Box 10152, Wellington 6143.

Yours sincerely



Katrina Casey
Deputy Secretary
Sector Enablement and Support

cc. Hira Gage, Director of Education Tai Tokerau