



MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
Te Tāhuhu o te Mātauranga

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Alex Harris
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Dear Alex Harris

Thank you for your letter of 4 July 2013 requesting the date on which Catherine Isaac left her position as Chair of the Partnership Schools | Kura Hourua Working Group (the Working Group).

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

Your email suggests that a draft Cabinet paper dated 5 February 2013 highlighted a conflict of interest regarding Ms Isaac, and that the paper required her to step down from that position.

The final Cabinet paper (available on the Ministry's website) noted that there was a potential conflict of interest should Ms Isaac, as Chair of the Working Group, have any contact with a group that submitted an application to operate a Partnership School while she chaired the Authorisation Board. It also noted that any conflict of interest that arose would be managed as set out in the Authorisation Board's Terms of Reference. This has been monitored through the Ministry reporting to Ministers, and no actual conflicts of interest have arisen.

The Working Group held their last full, formal meeting on 12 February 2013 and held a closing gathering on 13 March 2013 and ceased to operate. In July 2013 Minister Banks was advised the group had completed all matters within their terms of reference. He subsequently wrote to the members thanking them for their service between March 2012 and March 2013 and formally closed the group.

Yours sincerely

Rowena Phair
Deputy Secretary
Student Achievement