



Charter School Agency
Te Tari Kura Hourua

6/07/2026

Tēnā koe [REDACTED]

OIA: GEMS-47839 – Proposal to convert Kelston Boys' High School to a charter school

Thank you for your email of 23 April 2026 to the Charter School Agency (the Agency) requesting information regarding Bangerz Education and Wellbeing Trust's (BEWT) proposal to convert Kelston Boys' High School to a charter school. Your clarified request, received on 2 May 2026, is as follows:

1. Application and supporting material

- a) *The full application submitted by BEWT to convert Kelston Boys' High School, including all attachments.*
- b) *Reports prepared by the Agency for the Authorisation Board in relation to the application*

2. Assessment and advice

Any assessment or advice prepared by the Agency for the Authorisation Board relating to BEWT's application to convert Kelston Boys' High School

3. Communications

Communications between the Agency and BEWT and its trustees/officers or representatives, as well as Rhys Cullen and Siao Si Gavet, in relation to the Kelston conversion proposal between June 1, 2025 to December 31, 2025.

4. Meetings and engagements

Records of all meetings relating to the proposal(s) between Agency staff or Board members and BEWT (its trustees/officers or representatives), and/or Rhys Cullen and/or Siao Si Gavet. For each meeting, please include:

- a) *date and location*
- b) *minutes or notes*

5. External parties and involvement

Any communications with individuals or organisations advocating for or supporting the proposal(s) between June 1, 2025 to December 31, 2025.

6. Ministerial involvement

Formal communications such as briefings or reports between the Agency and Office of the Associate Minister of Education between June 1, 2025 to December 31, 2025

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

Please find attached as **Appendix A**, and as set out in the **Appendix A Document Table** below, a copy of the application submitted by BEWT to the Agency, along with the associated reports and advice prepared by the Agency for the Charter School Authorisation Board. Regarding **part two** of your request, the assessment or advice prepared by the Agency for the Board relating to BEWT's application is captured within the reports released to you at **Appendix A**. Please note, some information has been withheld under the following sections of the Act:

- 9(2)(a), to protect the privacy of natural persons.
- 9(2)(ba)(i), to protect information which is subject to an obligation of confidence or which any person has been or could be compelled to provide under the authority of any enactment, where the making available of the information would be likely to prejudice the supply of similar information, or information from the same source, and it is in the public interest that such information should continue to be supplied.
- 9(2)(g)(i), to maintain the effective conduct of public affairs through the free and frank expression of opinions by or between or to Ministers of the Crown or members of an organisation or officers and employees of any public service agency or organisation in the course of their duty.

As noted in our request for clarification of 1 May 2026, your initial request was broad in nature and scope. We appreciate receiving your clarification of 2 May 2026, however **part three** of your request remains considerably broad. To enable a substantive response to **part three** of your request however, communications of an administrative or incidental nature or which do not directly discuss the conversion proposal have been excluded by the Agency, such as arranging Board meeting dates and times. Due to the broad nature of this part of your request, we have also limited the timeframe for our search for communications to October – November 2025, as the application to convert Kelston Boys' High School (Kelston) was submitted to the Agency on 6 October 2025 and withdrawn on 13 November 2025. Therefore, we consider the information most pertinent to your request will be captured within this timeframe. We have also limited the scope to email communications between the sponsor and the Agency official most likely to be in communication with BEWT at this time. Where possible, the last email in a thread has also been provided to minimise duplication. Please find attached as **Appendix B** and as set out in the **Appendix B Document Table** below, the information the Agency holds in scope of **part three**. Please note, some information has been withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the Act, as above. One email attachment is also refused under section 18(d) of the Act, as the information is publicly available on the Kelston Facebook page.

We have interpreted **part four** of your request as meetings between the Agency, Authorisation Board and BEWT, which are the key meetings where the application to convert Kelston was discussed and subsequent decisions made. Please find attached as **Appendix C** records of meetings held by the Agency, in scope of **part four** of your request, including minutes or notes, where applicable. Some information has been withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the Act, as above.

We have interpreted **part five** of your request as seeking communications from individuals or organisations, excluding BEWT or its trustees or representatives, advocating for or supporting the proposal to convert Kelston. We have also limited our search to external Agency mailboxes between October – November 2025, which third party organisations or members of the public are most likely to have contacted the Agency through. No items of correspondence were found which advocated or supported the proposal. I am therefore refusing **part five** of your request under section 18(e) of the Act, as the information requested, despite reasonable efforts to locate it, has not been found.

The Agency has searched its records, and we have not identified any formal communications, such as reports or briefings provided to the Associate Minister of Education regarding BEWT's proposal to convert Kelston to a charter school. I am therefore refusing **part six** of your request under section 18(e) of the Act, as the document alleged to contain the information requested does not exist or, despite reasonable efforts to locate it, cannot be found.

As required under section 9(1) of the Act, I have considered the public interest in releasing the information withheld. I do not consider the public interest considerations favouring the release of this information are sufficient to outweigh the need to withhold it at this time.

Please note, 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. You have the right to ask an Ombudsman to review my decision on your request, in accordance with section 28 of the Act. You can do this by writing to info@ombudsman.parliament.nz or to Office of the Ombudsman, PO Box 10152, Wellington 6143.

Nāku noa, nā



Hugh McLraith
Principal Advisor
Charter School Agency

Appendix A Document Table

#	Date	Title	Decision on release
1	N/A	Expression of interest for converting charter schools	Released in part. Some information withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the Act.
2	6 Oct 2025	Application form for converting schools	Released in part. Some information withheld under sections 9(2)(a) and 9(2)(ba)(i) of the Act.
3	11 Oct 2025	Board Paper: Converting Schools Update	Released in part. Some information withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the Act. Out of scope information removed.
4	14 Oct 2025	Board Paper: Board interview Bangerz Education and Wellbeing Trust	Released in part. Some information withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the Act.
5	N/A	Cullen-kbhs	Withheld in full. Information withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the Act.
6	N/A	Draft BEWT Interview Template	Released in part. Some information withheld under sections 9(2)(a) and 9(2)(g)(i) of the Act.
7	4 Nov 2025	Consultation Report: Kelston Boys' High School Conversion	Released in part. Some information withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the Act.
8	11 Nov 2025	Board Paper: Bangerz Education and Wellbeing Trust Update	Released in part. Some information withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the Act.

Appendix B Document Table

#	Date	From	To	Subject	Decision on release
1	7 Oct 2025	BEWT	Charter School Agency	RE: Property: Kelston Boys' High School - satellite units	Released in part. Some information withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the Act.
1A	KBHS final Application form for converting schools				Refer to document 2 Appendix A
2	13 Oct 2025	Charter School Agency	BEWT	Re: Kelston Boys' High School	Released in part. Some information withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the Act. Out of scope information removed.

#	Date	From	To	Subject	Decision on release
2A	Cullen-kbhs				Refer to document 5 Appendix A
2B	Draft BEWT Interview Template				Refer to document 6 Appendix A
3	17 Oct 2025	BEWT	Charter School Agency	RE: Kelston Boys' High School	Released in part. Some information withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the Act.
4	23 Oct 2025	BEWT	Charter School Agency	RE: Kelston Boys' High School	Released in part. Some information withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the Act.
5	29 Oct 2025	BEWT	Charter School Agency	Kelston Boys' High School - inappropriate Facebook post	Released in part. Some information withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the Act.
5A	Samuela-FB-post251029				Refused under section 18(d) of the Act. Information is publicly available.
6	4 Nov 2025	Charter School Agency	BEWT	Agency / Bangerz Application Catch-up	Released in part. Some information withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the Act. Out of scope information removed.
7	4 Nov 2025	BEWT	Charter School Agency	BEWT – conversion of Kelston Boys'	Released in part. Some information withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the Act.
8	4 Nov 2025	BEWT	Charter School Agency	FINAL Consultation Report	Released in part. Some information withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the Act.
8A	FINAL Consultation Report BEWT_4 Nov 2025				Refer to document 7 Appendix A
9	7 Nov 2025	BEWT	Charter School Agency	RE: Summary of Agency Response – Bangerz Application Redaction Concern	Released in part. Some information withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the Act.
10	10 Nov 2025	BEWT	Charter School Agency	Reflection of Charter school conversion	Released in part. Some information withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the Act.

#	Date	From	To	Subject	Decision on release
11	14 Nov 2025	BEWT	Charter School Agency	RE: Immediate withdrawal of school conversion	Released in part. Some information withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the Act.
12	18 Nov 2025	BEWT	Charter School Agency	RE: URGENT: Agency embargo to be lifted today	Released in part. Some information withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the Act.
13	18 Nov 2025	Charter School Agency	BEWT	RE: EMBARGOED: Withdrawn community-initiated charter school application	Released in part. Some information withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the Act.
14	19 Nov 2025	Charter School Agency	BEWT	RE: EMBARGOED: Withdrawn community-initiated charter school application	Released in part. Some information withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the Act
14 A	Kelston Boys' High School: Charter School Agency Update				Released in full.

Appendix C Document Table

#	Date	Title	Decision on release
1	14 Oct 2025	Charter School Authorisation Board meeting minutes	Released in part. Some information withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the Act. Out of scope information removed.
2	11 Nov 2025	Charter School Authorisation Board meeting minutes	Released in part. Some information withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the Act. Out of scope information removed.