

13 November 2015

Murray Kirkness
The Editor
The New Zealand Herald
PO Box 32
Auckland

Dear Mr Kirkness

Complaint: Re article "Damning report rewritten after meetings"

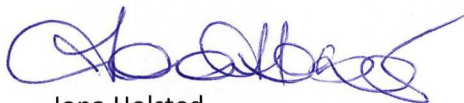
The article "Damning report rewritten after meetings" that appeared in this morning's edition of The Herald is scurrilous and wrong. The article is intentionally written to create an impression that changes that I personally asked to have made to the report were made in response to external pressure.

I asked that a recommendation in the report be strengthened. Our findings revealed that in some centres staff needed to focus more on communication and exploration strands of the curriculum, we also found that services had a strong foundation on which to improve, but there was no specific recommendation to that effect. I consider a recommendation focused on action to improve outcomes for our young children is stronger than a general comment about "informing policy". I believed that to be the case at the time and continue to do so.

Our findings revealed shortcomings in many centres and that is what the report says.

My office honestly answered your reporter's questions and this has been rewarded with innuendo that undermines my credibility and integrity. I seek a published apology.

Yours sincerely



Iona Holsted

Chief Review Officer