

Prime Minister

MP for Mt Albert

Minister for Arts, Culture & Heritage

Minister for National Security & Intelligence

Minister for Child Poverty Reduction



09 APR 2019

Felicity Wong
Chair, Historic Places Wellington
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Dear Ms Wong

Thank you for your letter of 5 March 2019 regarding the former Wellington Teachers' Training College at Karori.

I have taken a strong interest in the Training College, and understand the important place it holds in our history. It is an architecturally significant complex of buildings and has a strong connection with the history of New Zealand's education system.

In your letter, you call for Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga (HNZPT) to issue a heritage order under the Resource Management Act 1991. As Minister, I cannot direct Crown Entities such as Heritage New Zealand on operational matters. However, I have noted your request and have asked my officials to pass this on to Heritage New Zealand's Chief Executive.

The situation at the Training College has exposed vulnerabilities in our heritage protection system. I believe we can improve our policies and processes for identifying and protecting heritage buildings and, as you will be aware, I have requested the Ministry for Culture and Heritage undertake work on strengthening the system for protecting heritage buildings. I understand you have already provided useful contributions to this work, and I encourage you to stay in touch with Stefan Corbett, Director Policy (Stefan.Corbett@mch.govt.nz), who is leading this work on behalf of the Ministry.

I am looking forward to progressing this work as the Minister for Arts, Culture and Heritage, alongside partners in local government and the heritage sector. Please pass on my thanks to Historic Places Wellington for its work in advocating for the protection of Wellington's significant heritage places.

Thank you again for writing. I have asked my officials to keep me regularly updated on developments at the Training College.

Yours sincerely

Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern
Minister for Arts, Culture and Heritage