



28/05/2024

s9(2)(a)

Tēnā koe s9(2)(a)

OIA: 1327797 and 1328172 – requests for information about the University Advisory Group (UAG)

Thank you for your email of 30 April 2024 to the Ministry of Education (the Ministry) requesting the following information:

Are you able to provide all documentation and advice given by the Ministry of Education to Tertiary Education Minister Penny Simmonds relating to the establishment of the University Advisory Group?

We also acknowledge receipt of your email to the Minister for Tertiary Education of the same date, which has been transferred to the Ministry for response, requesting:

All documents and advice received regarding establishing the group, creating its terms of reference, and appointment of group members.

Your requests have been considered under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act).

The University Advisory Group has been established to provide the Government with advice on New Zealand's university system. The Group will consider challenges and opportunities for improvement in the university sector, including the role of the Performance Based Research Fund; ways to best achieve equity for all learners; and the role of international education. The Group will provide an initial report to the Ministry in August 2024, with a final report in February 2025.

We have identified 11 documents, or extracts of documents, within scope of your request. I am releasing five of these documents to you in part and refusing the remaining six documents under section 18(d) of the Act, as the information is, or will soon be, publicly available on the Ministry's website. Some information has, or will be withheld, for the information under the following sections of the Act:

- section 9(2)(a) of the Act, to protect the privacy of natural persons;



- section 9(2)(f)(iv) of the Act, to protect the confidentiality of advice tendered by Ministers of the Crown and officials; and
- section 9(2)(g)(i) of the Act, to maintain the effective conduct of public affairs through the free and frank expression of opinions by, between or to Ministers of the Crown and officials.

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 protect the privacy of the individuals concerned.

These documents are individually detailed, together with my decision as to their release, in **Appendix A: Document Table** below.

Please note, we may publish this response on our website after five working days. Your name and contact details will be removed.

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.

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.team@education.govt.nz.

Nāku noa, nā



James Campbell
Senior Policy Manager, Tertiary Education
Te Pou Kaupapahere | Policy

Appendix A: Document table

#	Date	Doc type	Title	Decision on release
Documents released with this response:				
1.	1 February 2024	Rapid Response	1322101: Higher Education Talking Points	Release in full
2.	29 February 2024 – 2 May 2024	Tertiary Education Weekly Update	Various extracts from the Tertiary Education Weekly Update to the Minister for Tertiary Education and Skills	Release in Part. Some information withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the Act.
3./3a	26 March 2024	Email and attachment.	UAG members – candidates for feedback.	Release in Part. Some information withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the Act.
4.	11 March 2024	Information Update	1324502: University Advisory Group membership	Release in Part. Some information withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the Act.
5.	27 March 2024	Information Update	1325789: University Advisory Group Member Update	Release in Part. Some information withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the Act. :
Documents in scope that are or will soon be publicly available				
6	27 November 2023	Briefing Note	1319031: Tertiary Education and Skills – policy briefing to incoming Minister	Refused under section 18(d) of the Act. Information is publicly available on the Ministry's website here: 14.-1319031-Tertiary-education-and-skills-for-release Redacted.pdf Some information has been withheld under section 9(2)(a) and section 9(2)(f)(iv) of the Act.

#	Date	Doc type	Title	Decision on release
7	28 November 2023	Education Report	1319471: Challenges and opportunities in higher education funding	<p>Refused under section 18(d) of the Act. Information is publicly available on the Ministry of Education's website here: ECM_983751_v1_RE: Briefing Note - 1319471 - Challenges and opportunities in higher education funding.pdf</p> <p>Some information has been withheld from the Education Report under section 9(2)(a) of the Act.</p>
8.	30 January 2024	Briefing Note	1321836: Proposed Higher Education Funding and University System Review	<p>Refused under section 18(d) of the Act. Information will soon be publicly available on the Ministry of Education's website here: Advice seen by our Ministers – Education in New Zealand</p> <p>Some information will be withheld under section 9(2)(a) and section 9(2)(g)(i) of the Act.</p>
9.	16 February 2024	Education Report	1322503: Higher Education Funding and University System Advisory Group	<p>Refused under section 18(d) of the Act. Information will soon be publicly available on the Ministry of Education's website here: Advice seen by our Ministers – Education in New Zealand</p> <p>Some information will be withheld under sections 9(2)(a) and 9(2)(f)(iv) of the Act.</p>

#	Date	Doc type	Title	Decision on release
10.	21 March 2024	Education Report	1324989: Letter to TEOs participating in the PBRF about the University Advisory Group	<p>Refused under section 18(d) of the Act. Information is publicly available on the Ministry of Education's website here: ECM_987556_v1_RE: RPT - 1324989 - Letters to tertiary education organisations participating in the PBRF about the University Advisory Group</p> <p>Some information has been withheld from the Education Report under section 9(2)(a) of the Act.</p>
11.		Cabinet Paper and Cover Briefing	The Science System Advisory Group and University Advisory Group	<p>Refused under section 18(d) of the Act. Information is publicly available on MBIE's website here: Cabinet papers and minutes Ministry of Business, Innovation & Employment (mbie.govt.nz)</p> <p>NB: these are Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE) led documents.</p>