



9/09/2024



OIA: 1333318 – Establishment of the University Advisory Group

Thank you for your emails of 30 July and 31 July 2024 to the Ministry of Education (the Ministry), which were subsequently clarified to be for the following information:

1. *All advice to, and decisions by, the Minister for Tertiary Education and Skills relating to the establishment of the University Advisory Group*
2. *All advice and decisions relating to the selection of members of the University Advisory Group.*

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

In response to **part one** of your request, I am providing the following links to a published Ministry response to an official information request, regarding the establishment of the University Advisory Group:

- Response 1327797 and 1328172: <https://assets.education.govt.nz/public/Documents/our-work/information-releases/responses-to-Official-Information-Act-requests/1327797-Response.pdf>
- 1327797 Appendix A: <https://assets.education.govt.nz/public/Documents/our-work/information-releases/responses-to-Official-Information-Act-requests/1327797-Appendix-A.pdf>

I am therefore refusing **part one** of your request under section 18(d) of the Act, as the information is publicly available.

Please note that some information has been withheld from the published documents under the following sections of the Act:

- 9(2)(a), to protect the privacy of natural persons
- 9(2)(f)(iv), to maintain the constitutional conventions for the time being which protect the confidentiality of advice tendered by Ministers of the Crown and officials



- 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 and officials.

In response to **part two** of your request, we have identified eight documents in scope, consisting of three memos and five email threads. Please find these documents attached as **Appendix A** and outlined in the **Appendix A Document Table** below. Some information has been withheld under sections 9(2)(a) and 9(2)(g)(i) of the Act, as above.

As required under section 9(1) of the Act, I have considered the public interest in releasing the information withheld as part of this response. 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



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

Appendix A Document Table

#	Date	Title	Decision on release
1	6 March 2024	Email: FW: UAG names	Partially release. Information withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the Act.
2	7 March 2024	Email: RE: UAG names	Partially release. Information withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the Act.
3	7 March 2024	MEMO: University Advisory Group – approval to begin the appointment process	Partially release. Information withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the Act.
4	7 March 2024	MEMO: University Advisory Group – agreement to delegate the management and appointment of the UAG	Released in full.
5	14 March 2024	MEMO: UAG Membership and Probity Checks	Partially release. Information withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the Act.
6	15 March 2024	Email: Ministers' view of panel – confidential	Partially release. Information withheld under section 9(2)(a) and 9(2)(g)(i) of the Act.
7	3 April 2024	Email: FW: AUG members – candidates for feedback	Partially release. Information withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the Act.
8	4 April 2024	Email: FW: UAG – Weekly Meeting	Partially release. Information withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the Act.