



22/08/2025

9(2)(a)

Tēnā koe 9(2)(a)

OIA: 1351681 – Information relating to the University Advisory Group and the Science System Advisory Group

Thank you for your email of 28 July 2025 to the Ministry of Education (the Ministry) requesting the following information:

- 1. The University Advisory Group's initial report and the Science System Advisory Group's second and final report understood to have been delivered to your office at the end of April.*
- 2. All correspondence between the chair Sir Peter Gluckman and your office related to advice, policy considerations, briefings, notes, opinions, or options under consideration as they relate to the work of the Groups.*
- 3. Please also provide me with the overall cost of each group, breaking out fees, administration and hosting costs.*
- 4. Separately I would like to requests all correspondence with your office about the disestablishment of the 'UAG' and 'SSAG' websites.*

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

Per our letter of 4 August 2025, we have transferred **parts two and four** of your request to the Minister for Universities, Hon Dr Shane Reti, in accordance with section 14(b)(ii) of the Act, as the information requested as more closely related to his functions.

In response to **part one** of your request, I can advise that the University Advisory Group's (UAG) initial report remains under active consideration. I am therefore withholding the report in full under section 9(2)(f)(iv) of the Act, to maintain the constitutional conventions for the time being which protect the confidentiality of advice tendered by 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 that the public interest considerations favouring the release of this information are sufficient to outweigh the need to withhold it at this time.



Please note that relevant Reports and the Government response will be released publicly shortly at: <https://www.education.govt.nz/our-work/information-releases/issue-specific-information-releases/university-advisory-group>.

In response to **part three** of your request, please see **Table 1** below for the overall costs on the UAG incurred by the Ministry and the Tertiary Education Commission (TEC).

Table 1: Costs incurred by the Ministry and TEC on the UAG

Type of spent	Total
Member Fees	\$277,276.00
Administration (travel, document design, external advice and support, website, etc.)	\$127,902.43
Hosting (catering)	\$854.00
Total	\$406,032.43

Ordinarily, we would be required to transfer the aspects of your request relating to the Science System Advisory Group (SSAG) to the Ministry of Business Innovation and Employment (MBIE) to respond, in line with section 14(b)(i) of the Act. However, as we are aware that MBIE has received the same request from you directly, transfer is not necessary on this occasion, and you may expect a response from MBIE as regards this information.

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
Policy Director Tertiary Policy
Te Pou Kaupapahere | Policy