



Report: Talking points and reactive QAs for Ministerial engagements

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| To: | Hon Penny Simmonds, Minister for Tertiary Education and Skills | | |
| Date: | 18/10/2024 | Deadline: | 21/10/2024 |
| Security Level: | In-Confidence | Priority: | High |
| From: | Rachel Dillon | Phone: | 9(2)(a) |
| Drafter: | Rachel Dillon | METIS No: | 1338379 |

Why are we sending this to you?

- You are receiving this because you are meeting with Ministers Willis and Upston to discuss your proposals for the redesign of the VET system that you intend taking to Cabinet on 9 December 2024.

Key facts, issues and questions

- You are meeting with Minister Willis and Minister Upston on Monday 21 October 2024 in your offices.
- These talking points and reactive QAs are intended to support you in your conversations with these Ministers.

Alignment with Government priorities

1. This report supports the redesign of the vocational education and training (VET) system, which is one of your 2024 priorities for the Tertiary Education and Skills portfolio.

Background

2. A meeting has been arranged between you, the Minister of Finance (Hon. Nicola Willis) and Minister for Social Development (Hon. Louise Upston). The meeting is an opportunity for you to discuss the basis of your proposals you intend to take to Cabinet for the future design of the VET system.
3. As part of Cabinet's agreement in July to publicly consulting on proposals [SOU-24-MIN-0083 refers], Cabinet:
 - 3.1. **noted** that the Minister will share the outcome of the further cost modelling work with the Minister of Finance and the Minister of Social Development, and meet to discuss the findings, ahead of broader Ministerial consultation on the paper expected to be submitted in November 2024;
 - 3.2. **agreed** that the outcomes of the cost modelling work will be reflected in the November 2024 Cabinet paper to support Ministers' decisions.
4. This meeting supports you in meeting that requirement.

Context

5. You have received a set of four A3s to assist you in walking through the proposals with your colleagues. We have prepared a set of talking points and reactive QAs for you to use (**Annex 1**).
6. It is likely that Minister Willis will be seeking to fully understand the fiscal implications of these proposals. Similarly, Minister Upston will be considering what these changes might mean in terms of NEETs and the welfare system more broadly.
7. 9(2)(f)(iv) 

Annexes

The following are annexed to this paper:

Annex 1: Talking points and reactive QAs **Annex 1 withheld under section 9(2)(g)(i)**

Annex 2: 9(2)(f)(iv) 

Recommended Actions

The Ministry of Education recommends you:

- a. **note** the contents of this report.

Proactive Release:

- b. **agree** that the Ministry of Education release this paper after Cabinet has taken policy decisions for the disestablishment and replacement of Te Pūkenga, as part of the communications strategy for the announcement of those decisions, with any information needing to be withheld done so in line with the provisions of the Official Information Act 1982.

Agree / Disagree



Rachel Dillon
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Te Pou Kaupapahere

18/10/2024



Hon Penny Simmonds
Minister for Tertiary Education and Skills

24/10/24

Annex 1: Talking points and reactive QAs

9(2)(g)(i)



9(2)(g)(i)



Proactively Released

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Proactively Released

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Annex 2: 9(2)(f)(iv)
9(2)(f)(iv)



Proactively Released