



31 March 2020

Matthew Schep
fyi-request-12352-bfcf737c@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Matthew

Thank you for your email of 2 March 2020 to the Ministry of Education requesting the following information:

- 1) *Under the leadership of former Tertiary Education Minister Pete Hodgson, over a decade ago, the Ministry of Education undertook a cost investigation into the concept of a universal tertiary student allowance.*
 - a) *Can you please provide me with a copy of any documents or reports that were published as a part of or as the culmination of that investigation?*
 - b) *I would also like to see copies of all emails sent to and from Minister Hodgson's government email account during his tenure as Tertiary Education Minister that reference universal student allowance.*

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

In relation to the first part of your request for documents and reports, attached to this response is the report completed for Minister Hodgson on the costs of providing a universal student allowance. I am releasing this to you in part with some information withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the Act to protect the privacy of natural persons.

In terms of the correspondence you have requested from Minister Hodgson's government email address. We have considered transferring the request to the Department of Internal Affairs, as the agency that holds this information, however they have advised they would refuse this aspect of your request as the way emails from before 2011 are stored would require substantial collation to sort through. For this reason I have not transferred your request to them and I am refusing this aspect of your request under section 18(g) of the Act.

Please note, the Ministry now proactively publishes OIA responses on our website. As such, 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 this decision. You can do this by writing to info@ombudsman.parliament.nz or Office of the Ombudsman, PO Box 10152, Wellington 6143.

Yours sincerely



Katrina Sutich
Group Manager
Tertiary Education