



17 November 2022

Frank Wilson  
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Tēnā koe Frank

Thank you for your email of 17 October 2022 to the Ministry of Education requesting the following information:

*Any correspondence, briefings, reports, recollections, aides-memoire and similar documents (including drafts) held by the Ministry of Education relating to changes made between the draft and final iterations of the Aotearoa histories curriculum and social sciences curriculum regarding the following:*

- 1. The decision to remove the sentence 'It is clear Māori did not cede their mana to the crown and that they signed in the belief that it would give them power to govern in partnership with the governor'*
- 2. The decision to change 'colonisation and its consequences' to 'colonisation and settlement'*
- 3. The decision to remove reference to colonisation 'continuing to influence society today'*
- 4. The decision to replace the reference to the Waitangi Tribunal from 'The Waitangi Tribunal investigation process and subsequent settlements by the Crown have led to economic, political, social, and cultural growth for iwi. The settlements have also provided an opportunity for reconciliation' with 'The Waitangi Tribunal investigation process and subsequent settlements by the Crown have provided an opportunity for reconciliation and greater engagement by non-Māori with the Treaty.'*
- 5. Any consideration given to the submission from Te Runanga o Ngāi Tahu, as well as other iwi and hapū submissions*
- 6. The decisions about using the wording 'the Treaty', 'te Tiriti' or 'te Tiriti o Waitangi | The Treaty of Waitangi'*
- 7. Any decisions relating to changes made in reference to climate change*
- 8. The use of te reo words in English sentences.*

Thank you also for your email of 19 October 2022 clarifying that you are *just wanting information relating to the Aotearoa New Zealand histories in the New Zealand Curriculum, not Te Takanga o te wā in Te Mārautanga o Aotearoa.*

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

At the time of your request, the Social Sciences curriculum content had not been finalised and approved. As a result, we are unable to provide any information regarding changes made between the draft and final iterations of the Social Sciences curriculum. Therefore, I am refusing this aspect of your request under section 18(e) of the Act, as the information requested does not exist. When the final refreshed Social Sciences curriculum content is released, you may wish to submit another request for this content.

The responses provided below therefore only relate to the Aotearoa New Zealand histories (ANZH) curriculum content.

Please note that **questions 1-4, 7 and 8** of your request are being answered together, as the response for these questions is the same. The remaining questions will be answered individually.

- 1. The decision to remove the sentence 'It is clear Māori did not cede their mana to the crown and that they signed in the belief that it would give them power to govern in partnership with the governor'**
- 2. The decision to change 'colonisation and its consequences' to 'colonisation and settlement'**
- 3. The decision to remove reference to colonisation 'continuing to influence society today'**
- 4. The decision to replace the reference to the Waitangi Tribunal from 'The Waitangi Tribunal investigation process and subsequent settlements by the Crown have led to economic, political, social, and cultural growth for iwi. The settlements have also provided an opportunity for reconciliation' with 'The Waitangi Tribunal investigation process and subsequent settlements by the Crown have provided an opportunity for reconciliation and greater engagement by non-Māori with the Treaty.'**
- 7. Any decisions relating to changes made in reference to climate change**
- 8. The use of te reo words in English sentences.**

The feedback received during the consultation period, both through the public survey and in-school testing, was independently analysed for the Ministry by the New Zealand Council for Educational Research and Te Paetawhiti. Summary reports were then returned to the Ministry. These independent analysis reports, alongside a summary report written by the Ministry, are available at: <https://www.education.govt.nz/our-work/changes-in-education/aotearoa-new-zealands-histories-and-te-takanga-o-te-wa/process-for-creating-te-takanga-o-te-wa-and-aotearoa-new-zealands-histories-content/>.

Once the Ministry received these reports, it worked with members of the Peer Review Group (a subgroup of Ohu Matua) to agree changes to both ANZH and Te Takanga o Te Wā.

As you can see from the above reports, the feedback the Ministry received on the content of ANZH was not as specific to individual words or the wording of particular sentences. Rather, themes were identified from the feedback that were used to edit the document as a whole. As a result, there are no correspondences, briefings, reports, recollections, aides-memoire and similar documents (including drafts) regarding the decision to change specific sentences. Therefore, I am refusing these aspects of your request under section 18(e) of the Act, as no such information exists.

All feedback and information regarding the development of the ANZH curriculum is available online in our responses to past Official Information Act requests. These can be found at the following links:

- 1284785 Response Letter: <https://assets.education.govt.nz/public/Documents/our-work/information-releases/responses-to-Official-Information-Act-requests/1284785-Response-v2.pdf>.
- 1284785 Appendix One: <https://assets.education.govt.nz/public/Documents/our-work/information-releases/responses-to-Official-Information-Act-requests/1284785-Appendix-One.pdf>.

- 1280110 Appendix A: <https://assets.education.govt.nz/public/Documents/our-work/information-releases/responses-to-Official-Information-Act-requests/1280110-Appendix-A.pdf>.

**5. Any consideration given to the submission from Te Runanga o Ngāi Tahu, as well as other iwi and hapū submissions**

As outlined above, the results of the public online survey, and all submissions received via email or otherwise from members of the public and/or organisations, were independently analysed by external providers. The independent analysis group then provided summary reports of this to the Ministry.

The independent analysis group was asked to analyse the views of Māori as a whole as a focus group in these independent analyses. Feedback was not considered at the level of individual hapū and iwi, and we did not request reporting on individual iwi or hapū. Any considerations relating to Te Runanga o Ngāi Tahu or other iwi or hapū that the Ministry holds as a product of the independent analysis reports we received are already publicly available in the reports linked above.

I am therefore refusing this aspect of your request under the following sections of the Act:

- Section 18(g), as the information is not held by the Ministry, and I have no grounds for believing that the information is held by another department or organisation subject to the Act
- Section 18(d), as the information that *is* held is publicly available.

**6. The decisions about using the wording 'the Treaty', 'te Tiriti' or 'te Tiriti o Waitangi | The Treaty of Waitangi'**

Between the draft ANZH curriculum document and the finalised version, the wording for referring to Te Tiriti o Waitangi and The Treaty of Waitangi was edited to follow standard Government policy. Guidance followed in this instance included legal guidance on the Treaty principles, and a Cabinet Office Circular on Te Tiriti o Waitangi | Treaty of Waitangi Guidance, which is publicly available at <https://dpmc.govt.nz/publications/co-19-5-te-tiriti-o-waitangi-treaty-waitangi-guidance>.

One email chain in scope of this question has been identified. I am withholding some information within that email chain under section 9(2)(h) of the Act, to maintain legal professional privilege.

I am providing the remainder of this email chain to you in the form of a summary, as allowable under section 16(1)(e) of the Act. In summary, that email identified that the Cabinet Office Circular linked above is useful for thinking through what Te Tiriti o Waitangi / The Treaty of Waitangi means for the Ministry's approach.

As required under section 9(1) of the Act, I have considered whether the public interest in this information outweighs the withholding of this information. There does not appear to be an overriding public interest supporting release.

Please note, the Ministry now proactively publishes official information 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 my decision on your request, in accordance with section 28 of the Act. You can do this by writing to [info@ombudsman.parliament.nz](mailto:info@ombudsman.parliament.nz) or to Office of the Ombudsman, PO Box 10152, Wellington 6143.

Nāku noa, nā



Pauline Cleaver  
**Associate Deputy Secretary**  
**Te Mahau | Te Poutāhū (Curriculum Centre)**