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13 June 2023

M D Stewart

By email: fyi-request-22790-039ca1d5@requests.fyi.org.nz

Tēnā koe M D Stewart

Request under the Official Information Act 1982 – Unitec Osteopathy Programme

Thank you for your email of 12 May 2023, requesting the following information from Te Pūkenga trading as Unitec Institute of Technology (Unitec) – we have numbered your request for ease of reference:

- 1. I request documents from the 2018 Renewal Plan relating to the review and closure of the osteopathy department, the programmes, (BAppSc, MOst), and the student osteopathy clinic in particular, documents relating to financial performance, profit and loss statements, revenue and operating expenses, student EFS and associated funding used in reviewing and closing these programmes.*
- 2. Also in particular documentary evidence related to the consultation that has been stated by Unitec staff was undertaken with the Osteopathic Council, Osteopaths New Zealand, the profession, alumni, and staff regarding the closure or transfer of the course in 2017-18.*

This letter provides a formal response to your request under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA).

The decision

With respect to the first part of your request, unfortunately the information you requested does not exist. Specifically, the decision to close Unitec's osteopathy programmes was made prior to the release of the 2018 Renewal Plan. Accordingly, there are no documents from the Renewal Plan that relate to the review and closure of the osteopathy programmes. We are therefore refusing this part of your request under section 18(e) of the OIA because the requested information does not exist.

With respect to the second part of your request, Unitec did not directly consult with either external stakeholders or kaimahi (staff) regarding the decision to close the osteopathy programmes. This was an internal business decision.

Unitec did seek feedback from external stakeholders as to whether Unitec should reconsider its decision to close the Unitec osteopathy programmes, following Auckland University of Technology's 2018 decision not to proceed with an osteopathy programme. The only record of this is contained within specific Advisory Group meeting minutes. We enclose copies of the Advisory Group meeting minutes that refer to this feedback as **Appendix One**. Please note that we have withheld some names from within the documents under section 9(2)(a) of the OIA to protect the privacy of natural persons. We have considered the public interest in releasing this information and do not believe it outweighs the need to withhold it at this time.

You have the right to make a complaint to the Ombudsman under section 28(3) of the OIA if you are not happy with this response. Information about how to do this is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or by calling 0800 802 602.

Ngā mihi



Peter Winder
Tumuaki | Chief Executive

