

Aide-Memoire: Indicative timeline for the consideration of the proposal for a third medical school

To:	Hon Paul Goldsmith, Minister for Tertiary Education, Skills and Employment
From:	Tim Fowler, Chief Executive
Date:	13 March 2017
Reference:	AM/17/00200

Purpose

1. This aide-memoire provides details of the current timeline for the review and discussion of the University of Waikato/Waikato DHB business case for establishing a third medical school in New Zealand.

Background

1. In the last quarter of 2016, the University of Waikato (Waikato) and the Waikato District Health Board (DHB) submitted a joint business case to Hon Steven Joyce, then Minister for Tertiary Education Skills and Employment, proposing to establish a new medical school. The proposed programme is a four-year graduate entry programme with students able to enter from any prior degree programme providing they meet academic and dispositional criteria.
2. In addition, the focus will be on accepting students keen on rural practice, and likely to continue to practice within the region (or within other rural areas in New Zealand). It is envisaged that many of these students will be Māori, reflecting the demographics of the Waikato region.
3. The business case has been the subject of several discussions between Ministers, government officials and the University of Waikato/Waikato DHB as outlined below.

Timeline for reviewing the business case

4. The timeline for the review and discussion of the business case is below:

Date	Event
14 October 2016	Business Case for the establishment of a third medical school submitted to Government. TEC officials provided a preliminary assessment of the business case (B/16/001142 refers).
17 October 2016	Professor Neil Quigley, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Waikato and Dr Nigel Murray, Chief Executive of Waikato DHB verbally presented the business case to Ministers Steven Joyce and Jonathan Coleman.
October 2016	TEC officials engaged the Treasury and Ministry of Health regarding the business case.
28 October 2016	Officials provided further assessment and advice around the business case. This included a draft letter from Ministers to the University of Waikato/Waikato DHB requesting the submitted business case be developed into an Indicative Business Case that meets Treasury's Better Business Case requirements.
3 November 2016	Prime Minister Rt. Hon John Key met University of Waikato/Waikato DHB to discuss the business case. The TEC provided information to support this meeting (B/16/01202 refers).
2 December 2016	Ministry of Health and TEC officials met with the Deans of the Auckland and Otago medical schools to discuss their concerns around the business case. It is noted that this meeting was supposed to have been held with Ministers, but they were unable to attend. The TEC provided advice to support this meeting (B/16/01276 refers).
20 December 2016	Hon. Paul Goldsmith replaced Hon. Steven Joyce as Minister of Tertiary Education, Skills and Employment
December 2016	The TEC provided information about the business case and draft letter from Ministers in its Briefing to the Incoming Minister.
19 January 2017	Officials provide Aide Memoire (AM/17/00011) to the Minister summarising the medical school business case, comments made by existing medical schools (University of Auckland and University of Otago), and the draft letter to be sent to University of Waikato/Waikato DHB.

5. Finalising the letter has been done by your office in conjunction with the Minister of Health and his office.
6. Please note that this timeline does not include dates for correspondence with third parties, or meeting with third parties to discuss the business case e.g. correspondence acknowledging the support of Waikato Means Business, or meetings with the Universities of Auckland/Otago, where the proposal may have been raised as a concern, but was not the focus of the meeting.

7. The draft letter requesting an indicative Business Case (IBC) has been reviewed by Minister Coleman and is due to be sent out soon. The TEC has asked to comment on this prior to it being sent to the University of Waikato/Waikato DHB.
8. It is not possible to indicate a timeline for submission of the IBC until the University of Waikato/Waikato DHB has received the response from Ministers. Once this has been done, TEC officials intend to meet with the relevant parties to discuss the letter and agree a sensible timeline for submission of the next business case.
9. Considerable work has been done on the business case already. Our estimate at this stage is that two to three-months additional work would be required to address the issues raised in the draft letter. The work required is mainly stakeholder engagement and further financial modelling.



Tim Fowler

Chief Executive

Tertiary Education Commission

13 March 2017

Hon Paul Goldsmith

Minister for Tertiary Education, Skills and
Employment

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