



Ref: OI-23-00772

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15 September 2023

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Erika Whittome

[www.tec.govt.nz](http://www.tec.govt.nz)

By email: [fyi-request-23946-b02696b2@requests.fyi.org.nz](mailto:fyi-request-23946-b02696b2@requests.fyi.org.nz)

Tēnā koe Erika

Thank you for your request, received on 25 August 2023, for the following information under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

- *Please would you share any communications between you and The University of Auckland regarding Covid 19 and employment policies from Jan 2022 until the present time.*
- *Also please share any health policies for university teaching facilities and university owned halls of residences or apartments for University of Auckland students from Nov/Dec 2021 until the present time.*

On 25 August 2023 we advised you that the second portion of your request had been transferred to the University of Auckland for a response.

The Tertiary Education Commission (TEC) is not involved with university employment policies; therefore, we are unable to provide you with any communications on this topic.

The Education and Training Act 2020 provides the University of Auckland (UoA) with the freedom to make operational decisions, including how to manage its staffing. UoA is an autonomous entity, and the Government nor its agencies are not party to the employment relationship between UoA and its staff.

I am releasing Covid-19 related communications between the TEC and the UoA from January 2022 to present as referenced in the attached table.

In accordance with the Official Information Act, I am withholding some information in the released documents. Redactions are clearly marked in the documents, with the following reasons for the redactions, as applicable:

- personal contact details of officials, under section 9(2)(a) – to protect the privacy of natural persons, including deceased people,
- maintain the effective conduct of public affairs through, under section 9(2)(g)(ii) – the protection of such Ministers, members of organisations, officers, and employees from improper pressure or harassment.

I am satisfied, in terms of section 9(1) of the Act, that the need to withhold the information referred to above is not outweighed by other considerations that render it desirable, in the public interest, to make the information available.



TERTIARY EDUCATION REPORT: COMMUNICATIONS BETWEEN TEC AND UNIVERSITY OF AUCKLAND  
REGARDING COVID-19

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this decision.  
Information about how to make a complaint is available at [www.ombudsman.parliament.nz](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz) or  
freephone 0800 802 602.

Nāku noa, nā

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Tim Fowler', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Tim Fowler  
Chief Executive  
Tertiary Education Commission

## Information released under the Official Information Act (1982)

| Item No | Date     | Document Type | Title   | Reference/ Notes | Release  |
|---------|----------|---------------|---|------------------|--|
| 1       | 14/01/22 | Email         | UC and UOA contact management discussion          |                  | Release, with information withheld under section 9(2)(a)                                     |
| 2       | 21/01/22 | Email         | Online learning options at UoA                    |                  | Release, with information withheld under section 9(2)(a)                                     |
| 3       | 01/02/22 | Email         | Covid case, UoA – notified 30/01/21               |                  | Release, with information withheld under section 9(2)(a)                                     |
| 4       | 15/02/22 | Email         | Follow up university halls of residence           |                  | Release, with information withheld under section 9(2)(a), with some information out of scope |
| 5       | 20/02/22 | Email         | Notification of Covid case at Auckland University |                  | Release, with information withheld under section 9(2)(a), with some information out of scope |
| 6       | 22/02/22 | Email         | UoA cases   |                  | Release, with information withheld under section 9(2)(a)                                     |
| 7       | 23/02/22 | Email         | Notification of Covid case at Auckland University |                  | Release, with information withheld under section 9(2)(a), with some information out of scope |
| 8       | 23/02/22 | Email         | Universities: Reporting of cases                  |                  | Release, with information withheld under section 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)                        |
| 9       | 23/02/22 | Email         | UoA cases   |                  | Release, with information withheld under section   |

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|----|----------|-------|--|--|--|
|    |          |       |  |  | 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)   |
| 10 | 24/02/22 | Email | Notification of Covid case at Auckland University, Auckland central          |  | Release, with information withheld under section 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)                        |
| 11 | 25/02/22 | Email | UoA cases  |  | Release, with information withheld under section 9(2)(a)                                     |
| 12 | 11/03/22 | Email | Universities – Covid Case reporting changes                                  |  | Release, with information withheld under section 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)                        |
| 13 | 21/02/22 | Email | Universities: Please note updated guidance                                   |  | Release, with information withheld under section 9(2)(a), with some information out of scope |
| 14 | 25/03/22 | Email | Reminder – reporting weekly case numbers, due midday today                   |  | Release, with information withheld under section 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)                        |
| 15 | 07/04/22 | Email | Reminder – reporting weekly case numbers, due 4pm today                      |  | Release, with information withheld under section 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)                        |
| 16 | 12/04/22 | Email | Universities: vaccine requirements and COVID case reporting changes          |  | Release, with information withheld under section 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)                        |
| 17 | 07/07/22 | Email | Change of COVID incident controller at UoA                                   |  | Release, with information withheld under section 9(2)(a)                                     |
| 18 | 15/07/22 | Email | Covid check in next week with Uni appointed covid person/incident controller |  | Release, with information withheld under section 9(2)(a), with some information out of scope |
| 19 | 20/01/23 | Email | Covid-19 protection framework enrolling international PhD students           |  | Release, with information withheld under section 9(2)(a), with some information out of scope |
| 20 |          | PDF   | Pandemic contact Trace Process   |  | Release, with information withheld under section 9(2)(a)                                     |
| 21 |          | PDF   | MATRIX Locations of interest pran299 Aug 2021                                |  | Release in full  |
| 22 |          | PDF   | In case of positive case of covid  |  | Release in full  |
| 23 |          | PDF   | HSW 2021-01-26 – Pandemic Contact tracing – v6                               |  | Release in full  |

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|----|----------|-------|-----------------------------|--|-----------------|
| 24 |          | PDF   | Case on campus – comms plan |  | Release in full |
| 25 | 22/02/22 | Excel | Cases 220222a               |  | Names redacted  |
| 26 | 23/02/22 | Excel | Cases 230222                |  | No withholds    |
| 27 | 25/02/22 | Excel | Cases 250222                |  | No withholds    |