

20 October 2023

fyi-request-24239-4f1bf6c7@requests.fyi.org.nz

Kia ora NZ Citizen

Re: OIA Request

Following your request under the Official Information Act asking for information regarding a recent cyber security incident.

AUT can confirm that after the unauthorised access by a third party to our IT environment we took immediate action to contain and isolate potentially affected servers and implemented additional security measures in the hours after initial detection. We also engaged leading external cyber security and forensic IT experts to assist with our investigation into the incident, which remains ongoing. Students and staff were notified.

We have reviewed your request and decided to withhold information under:

Section 6 (c) - that it would prejudice the maintenance of the law (including the prevention, investigation, and detection of offences and the right to a fair trial).

Section 9(2)(a) - Protect the privacy of natural persons (including the privacy of a deceased person).

Section 9(2)(b) - Protect information where the making available of the information would disclose a trade secret or would be likely unreasonably to prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied or who is the subject of the information.

Section 9 (2) (ba) – Protect information which is subject to an obligation of confidence or which any person has been or could be compelled to provide under the authority of any enactment, where the making available of the information would be likely to prejudice the supply of similar information, or information from the same source, and it is in the public interest that such information should continue to be supplied; or would be likely otherwise to damage the public interest;

Section 9(2) (c) - Avoid prejudice to measures protecting the health or safety of members of the public.

Section 9(2)(g) - Maintain the effective conduct of public affairs through the free and frank expression of opinions by, between, or to, Ministers, officers and employees of a Department or members of an organisation, in the course of their duty, or through protection of any of them from improper pressure or harassment.

Section 9(2)(h) - Maintain legal professional privilege.

Section 9(2)(k) - Prevent disclosure or use of information for improper gain.

Section 9(2)(e) – Avoid prejudice to measures that prevent or mitigate material loss to members of the public.

Having considered the public interest in the information being released, we have concluded that the public interest does not outweigh the need to withhold the information.

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Under section 28(1)(a) of the Official Information Act 1982, you may ask the Ombudsmen to investigate and review our decision to decline to provide some of the official information to you.

Ngā mihi

Alison Sykora
Director of Communications.