



**Te Pūkenga**

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15 February 2024

William James

By email: [fyi-request-25077-bca872fe@requests.fyi.org.nz](mailto:fyi-request-25077-bca872fe@requests.fyi.org.nz)

Tēnā koe William

### **Request under the Official Information Act 1982 – Senior Leader email communication**

I refer to your email dated 7 December 2023, requesting the following information from Te Pūkenga – New Zealand Institute of Skills and Technology (Te Pūkenga):

*... a PDF copy or the next best alternative of the Letter of Expectation that Te Pūkenga received from the National Government's Tertiary Education and Skills Minister. I am seeking the full and unredacted document.*

*Additionally, I am requesting access to any email communications from relevant senior leadership team members, as listed on the Te Pūkenga website ... [here you provided a link to our Leadership Team webpage]. Specifically, I am interested in communications that discuss potential changes in priorities for the new government, any dialogue about the future state of Te Pūkenga, and discussions related to future planning. This includes considerations of signals for changes, general concerns surrounding possible adjustments aligned with National's signalled 100-day action plan, or any other matters of a similar nature.*

*To narrow the scope of the request, I am specifically interested in emails sent or received from the night of the New Zealand General Election (Saturday, 14 October 2023) up to the date this email is received and processed.*

On 20 December 2023, you confirmed with my office withdrawal of the first part of your request for a copy of the Letter of Expectations as we advised it was already publicly available on parliament's website. In the same email communication, you kindly refined the second part of your request by providing keywords "National [government]" and "100 day plan" as keyword search terms.

On 18 January 2024 we wrote to you advising of an extension to the timeframe for making a decision on your request to 16 February 2024. This letter provides a formal decision on your request under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA).

## Email search and interpretation

We have interpreted the scope of your request to be for email correspondence sent or received by the nine members of Te Pūkenga Executive Leadership team, as listed on Te Pūkenga website as at the date of your request, from 14 October 2023 through to the date your email was received (8 December 2023) that contained the keywords “*National [government]*” or “*100 day plan*”.

We note the nine executive leaders at that time included:

- Peter Winder
- Gus Gilmore
- Dr Megan Gibbons
- Andrew McSweeney
- Paora Ammunson
- Keri-Anne Tane
- Teresa Pollard
- Michelle Teirney
- Ziena Jalil

As advised in our letter of 18 January, an email search was undertaken during this period to see whether any emails were within scope of your request.

## The decision

A table of the 18 emails within the scope of your request and our decision on release is at **Appendix One**. Copies of these 18 emails we are releasing to you are attached as one document at **Appendix Two**.

Some information has been withheld or refused under the following sections of the OIA:

- 9(2)(a) to protect the privacy of natural persons
- 18(d) as the information is already publicly available

With regard to the information withheld under section 9 of the OIA, we do not believe the need to withhold this information is outweighed by the public interest in its release. Some information has also been redacted or removed from within the emails as it is outside the scope of your request.

Please note we have excluded several duplicate emails. We have also excluded some media emails as they are publicly available.

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](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz) or by calling 0800 802 602.

Ngā mihi



Gus Gilmore  
**Tumuaki Taupua** | Acting Chief Executive

## Appendix One - Documents attached and Te Pūkenga decision on release

Doc #	Subject of email	Decision on release
1	RE: the 100 day plan	Names and contact details withheld under section 9(2)(a)
2	FW:	Contact details withheld under section 9(2)(a) The attachment withheld under section 18(d), it can be found at: <a href="https://assets.nationbuilder.com/actnz/mailings/6945/attachments/original/National_ACT_Agreement.pdf?1700781466">https://assets.nationbuilder.com/actnz/mailings/6945/attachments/original/National ACT Agreement.pdf?1700781466</a>
3	New Governance and Tertiary Education Minister Announced	Contact details withheld under section 9(2)(a) The two attachments withheld under section 18(d), one can be found at the link provided above, the other can be found at: <a href="http://www.nzfirst.nz/coalition-agreement">www.nzfirst.nz/coalition-agreement</a>
4	FW: New Governance and Tertiary Education Minister Announced	Names and contact details withheld under section 9(2)(a) The two attachments withheld under section 18(d), they can be found at the two links provided above.
5	RE: New Governance and Tertiary Education Minister Announced	Names and contact details withheld under section 9(2)(a) The attachment withheld under section 18(d), it can be found at: <a href="http://www.national.org.nz/100dayplan">www.national.org.nz/100dayplan</a>
6	Coalition Agreement 2023-26 (National Takes the Lead)	Names and contact details withheld under section 9(2)(a)
7	New Government and new Tertiary Education Minister announced.	Released in full
8	RE: Coalition Agreement 2023-26 (National Takes the Lead)	Names and contact details withheld under section 9(2)(a)
9	Fwd: BusinessNZ view of coalition and tertiary education	Names and contact details withheld under section 9(2)(a)
10	100 days and counting for “hugely ambitious” plan	Names withheld under section 9(2)(a)
11	Fwd: Govt's 49 actions in the first 100 day	Contact details withheld under section 9(2)(a)
12	Re: Govt's 49 actions in the first 100 days	Contact details withheld under section 9(2)(a)
13	FW: Govt's 49 actions in the first 100 days	Names and contact details withheld under section 9(2)(a)
14	News Thu 30/11 – 100-Day Plan. Green Portfolios.	Names and contact details withheld under section 9(2)(a)
15	RE: SCF projects - Water Reforms project	Names and contact details withheld under section 9(2)(a)
16	Ngā Taipitopito   Peter Winder has a first meeting with the new Minister.	Some information has been redacted and removed as it is out of scope of your request
17	FW: Media wrap - week ending 1 Dec 2023	Names and contact details withheld under section 9(2)(a) Small section redacted as out of scope
18	FW: Where’s the vision?	Contact details withheld under section 9(2)(a)