

# Hon Penny Simmonds

Minister for Disability Issues  
Minister for the Environment  
Minister for Tertiary Education and Skills  
Associate Minister for Social Development and Employment



Betty Munro  
[fyi-request-25083-d1182d96@requests.fyi.org.nz](mailto:fyi-request-25083-d1182d96@requests.fyi.org.nz)

Ref: PS-OI-23-001

Dear Betty

Thank you for your email of 8 December 2023 requesting the following information relating to my letter of expectations to Te Pūkenga – New Zealand Institute of Skills and Technology regarding the programme of work to support the Government's policy direction:

- 1. The names of all officials involved in developing this programme of work, as well as the agency or employer they are working for, including where they are self-employed or a sole contractor.*
- 2. The names of any consultant, advisor, and/or individual who has worked for you (including advising in an unofficial capacity) on the development of any planning or preparatory work for your proposal to disestablish Te Pūkenga from June 2023 until the current date, as well as the total fees incurred for this work to date for each individual, and; any and all information in relation to declarations of conflicts of interest of those contractors, individuals or advisors.*

I have considered your request under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act).

Please refer to the table below with the list of officials involved in the development of the programme of work as outlined in **part one** of your request. I can confirm that, of the officials listed below, none are self-employed or sole contractors.

Please note, the Chief Executive and Deputy Chief Executive of the Tertiary Education Commission (TEC) are listed below for their agency, as accountability for advice to the Minister for Tertiary Education and Skills rests with the Chief Executive and the relevant Deputy Chief Executive.

Other TEC officials are involved in this work, however due to recent protests against the TEC, I have withheld the names of these individuals in accordance with section 9(2)(g)(ii) of the Act, to maintain the effective conduct of public affairs through the protection of employees and improper pressure or harassment.

<b>Ministry of Education Officials</b>	<b>Tertiary Education Commission Officials</b>
Katrina Sutich	Tim Fowler
Eleonora Sparagna	Gillian Dudgeon
Vic Johns	

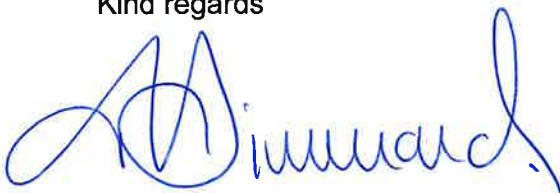
Please refer to the table below with the name of the advisor who has worked for me on the proposal to disestablish Te Pūkenga as outlined in **part two** of your request.

<b>Ministerial Advisor</b>
Alex Dykes

As required under section 9(1) of the Act, I have considered the public interest in releasing the information withheld under section 9(2)(g)(ii) of the Act. I do not consider the public interest considerations favouring the release of this information are sufficient to outweigh the need to withhold it at this time.

Thank you again for your email. You have the right to ask an Ombudsman to review this decision. You can do this by writing to [info@ombudsman.parliament.nz](mailto:info@ombudsman.parliament.nz) or Office of the Ombudsman, PO Box 10152, Wellington 6143.

Kind regards



Hon Penny Simmonds  
**Minister for Tertiary Education and Skills**