



Te Pūkenga

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20 June 2024

Amy F Taylor

By email: fyi-request-27231-b841ad28@requests.fyi.org.nz

Tēnā koe Amy

Request under the Official Information Act 1982

Thank you for your email of 12 June 2024, requesting the following information from UCOL | Te Pūkenga – New Zealand Institute of Skills and Technology (UCOL):

I request any and all correspondence, memos, or documents relating to the Association of Students @ UCOL (AS@U) and/or the Students Association of UCOL, including but not limited to:

- 1. Emails, letters, or other written communications between UCOL staff, faculty, or administration discussing AS@U or the Students Association of UCOL.*
- 2. Meeting minutes, agendas, or summaries where AS@U or the Students Association of UCOL were discussed or mentioned.*
- 3. Any policies, guidelines, or official documents governing the relationship between UCOL and AS@U or the Students Association of UCOL.*
- 4. Any financial records, budgets, or funding agreements related to AS@U or the Students Association of UCOL.*
- 5. Any reports, surveys, or evaluations assessing the effectiveness or impact of AS@U or the Students Association of UCOL.*

Please provide documents created within the past five years.

This letter provides a formal decision on your request under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA).

Substantial collation and research

Section 18(f) of the OIA provides that a request may be refused as *the information requested cannot be made available without substantial collation or research.*

Your request encompasses a large quantity of information to be searched, reviewed and collated. As an example, in relation to your first request for emails, letters, or other written communications between UCOL staff, faculty, or administration discussing AS@U or the Students Association of UCOL

- UCOL currently has 435 kaimahi (staff) by headcount, not inclusive of kaimahi who have left UCOL employment within the past five years. To fulfil your first request, we would need to conduct a search of all communications sent internally by these 435 kaimahi, plus those who have left UCOL employment, for the period 2019-present. All communications found to contain some reference to AS@U or the Students Association of UCOL would then need to be individually reviewed, redactions considered, and approved for release.

Given the scope of your request, the amount of resource required to process it, we carefully looked into the option of charging for making the requested information available, under sections 15(1A) and (2) of the OIA. Agencies are able to charge for staff time, including search and retrieval, collation, research (reading and reviewing to identify information), editing (excising or redacting information to be withheld), and reasonable peer review of these tasks. It became clear that the charge was itself extraordinarily large and even if you were to agree to payment, the work to carry out the mahi (work) would entail a significant and unreasonable impact on UCOL's ability to carry out its other day to day operations.

The decision

Taking the above points into consideration, we have decided to refuse your request under section 18(f) of the OIA as the information requested cannot be made available without substantial collation or research.

If you wish to discuss this decision and response with us, please feel free to contact Johnny Tramoundanas-Can, Government Relations Director, at OIA@tepukenka.ac.nz. We also invite you to consider rescoping your request and submitting a new application.

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 or by calling 0800 802 602.

We may publish our OIA responses and the information contained in our reply to you on our website. Before publishing we will remove any personal or identifiable information.

Ngā mihi



Gus Gilmore
Tumuaki | Chief Executive