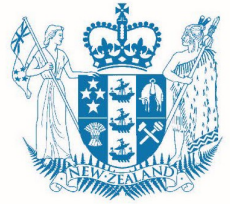


Hon Penny Simmonds

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



30 September 2024

George Morrison
fyi-request-28287-738506a6@requests.fyi.org.nz

Ref: PSTE-OI-24-015

Dear George

Thank you for your email of 3 September 2024 requesting the following information:

- 1. Please provide me with the initial report of the University Advisory Group in relation to advice on New Zealand's university system. The Group's website notes that an initial report was to have been provided to the government in August.*
- 2. Please also provide me with all correspondence between the chair Sir Peter Gluckman and your office. I am happy to exclude incidental communications (logistical arrangements etcetera), but wish to receive any advice, policy considerations, briefings, notes, opinions, or options under consideration as they relate to the work of the Group.*
- 3. Please also provide me with the overall cost of the group, breaking out fees, administration and hosting costs.*

I have considered your request under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) and numbered it for the purposes of responding.

I am refusing **part one** of your request under section 18(e) of the Act, as the information requested does not yet exist. The University Advisory Group's (UAG) interim report is still in development and the Ministry of Education (the Ministry) has agreed to extend the deadline until the end of September 2024.

My office has identified no communication in scope of **part two** of your request, so I am refusing this under section 18(e) of the Act, as the document alleged to contain the information requested does not exist or, despite reasonable efforts to locate it, cannot be found.

As advised on 17 September 2024, I have transferred **part three** of your request to the Ministry in accordance with section 14(b)(i) of the Act, and you may expect a response in due course.

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 or Office of the Ombudsman, PO Box 10152, Wellington 6143.

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Penny Simmonds', written in a cursive style.

Hon Penny Simmonds
Minister for Tertiary Education and Skills