

Hon Judith Collins KC

Attorney General
Minister of Defence
Minister for Digitising Government
Minister Responsible for the GCSB
Minister Responsible for the NZSIS
Minister of Science, Innovation and Technology
Minister for Space



Ref: JCOIA-195

K Jack
Email: fyi-request-28586-729ea15a@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear K Jack,

Thank you for your email of 30 September 2024 requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), the following information:

“Please provide:

- Any drafts, summaries, and/or final copies of the initial report of the Science System Advisory Group (SSAG) due to have been provided to the government in June, and any communications regarding this initial report;*
- All communications (email, text, phone, etc.) between your office and the chair of the SSAG Sir Peter Gluckman;*
- All materials held by your office related to the selection/invitation of Sir Peter Gluckman as SSAG chair.”*

On 18 October I extended the time available to respond to your request until 26 November 2024 under section 15A(1)(b) of the Act.

I have identified four documents in scope of part one of your request as listed below:

	Title	Decision
1	Final SSAG report – Phase 1	Withheld in full under section 9(2)(f)(iv) and under section 18(d)
2	Executive summary and recommendations of SSAG report – Phase 1	Withheld in full under section 9(2)(f)(iv) and

		under section 18(d)
3	MBIE's potential response to SSAG recommendations 23 July 24	Withheld in full under section 9(2)(f)(iv)
4	MBIE's potential response to the SSAG report 7 Aug 24	Withheld in full under section 9(2)(f)(iv)

I have identified seven emails from Sir Peter Gluckman, in his capacity as chair of the SSAG, in scope of part two of your request as listed below:

	Date	Title	Decision
1	17 December 2023	Review of the science system	Released with redactions under sections 9(2)(a) and 9(2)(g)(i)
2	14 January 2024	Herman Hauser had agreed	Released with redactions under section 9(2)(a)
3	16 January 2024	Re: Contact Details (Orson Glubb)	Released with redactions under sections 9(2)(a) and 9(2)(g)(i)
4	24 March 2024	Title withheld under section 9(2)(f)(iv)	Released with redactions under sections 9(2)(a) and 9(2)(f)(iv)
5	23 March 2024	Re: Media enquiry: Science and Universities review	Released with redactions under sections 9(2)(a) and 9(2)(g)(i)
6	19 September 2024	Title withheld under section 9(2)(f)(iv)	Released with redactions under sections 9(2)(a),

			9(2)(f)(iv) and 9(2)(g)(i)
7	3 September 2024	Title withheld under section 9(2)(f)(iv)	Released with redactions under sections 9(2)(a) and 9(2)(f)(iv)

I have identified four documents in scope of part three of your request as listed below:

	Date	Title	Decision
1	20 December 2023	2324-1430 Science Advisory Group	Released with redactions under sections 9(2)(a)
2	10 January 2024	2324- 1506 Letter of appointment, Science System Advisory Group	Released with redactions under sections 9(2)(a)
3	19 January 2024	2324-1626 Science System Advisory Group Membership Update	Released with redactions under sections 9(2)(a)
4	7 February 2024	Terms of Reference - Science System Advisory Group	Withheld in full under section 18(d)

I am withholding five documents in full. Please find a copy of the remaining documents enclosed.

Please note some of the information has been withheld under the following sections of the Act:

- Section 6(a) – as the making available of the information would be likely to prejudice the security or defence of New Zealand or the international relations of the Government of New Zealand.
- Section 9(2)(a) – to protect the privacy of natural persons.
- Section 9(2)(f)(iv) to maintain the constitutional conventions for the time being which protect the confidentiality of advice tendered by Ministers of the Crown and officials;

- Section 9(2)(g)(i) to maintain the effective conduct of public affairs through the free and frank expression of opinions by or between or to Ministers of the Crown or members of an organisation or officers and employees of any public service agency or organisation in the course of their duty;
- Section 18(d) – refusal of request as the information requested will soon be publicly available.

The terms of reference of the Science Systems Advisory Group are available at the following link: <https://www.mbie.govt.nz/dmsdocument/28134-terms-of-reference-science-skills-advisory-group>

I do not consider that the withholding of any information is outweighed by public interest considerations in making the information available.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this decision, in accordance with section 28(3) of the Act. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or freephone 0800 802 602.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Judith Collins', with a large loop at the end of the first name.

Hon Judith Collins KC

Minister of Science, Innovation and Technology