



Office of Hon Steven Joyce

Minister for Economic Development
Minister of Science and Innovation
Minister for Tertiary Education, Skills and Employment
Associate Minister of Finance

25 JUN 2013

Robert Dunn
fyi-request-749-275e127d@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Robert

Thank you for your letter of 1 February 2013, requesting under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

"1: Could you please provide anonymous raw data of students who at the time of the law change to disallow postgraduate study to receive the student allowance were currently enrolled in PhD programmes and receiving the student allowance. Preferably, this detail would include the information on how many years each student had claimed the allowance and when they first enrolled in the PhD program. If anonymous raw data is not available, please provide on the numbers of students studying PhDs who were utilizing the student allowance scheme at the date when the law was changed.

2: Could you please also provide the research or report that outlines the government's justification to remove student allowance assistance from students in the middle of a degree program instead of allowing them to finish the degree with assistance and only denying this support to newly started degrees. If this research was not done, please confirm that the government did not consider this group of people separately.

3: Could you please also provide the details on the models used to fund universities in New Zealand. What are the key performance indicators (KPIs) used to determine university teaching quality and funding. Specifically, I am interested in any KPIs related to enrolments, paper pass rate and degree completion rates. PBRF and Research KPIs are less important. Please also provide the numbers for these KPIs for universities in New Zealand from 2000-2012."

I responded to your request in March. In this response, I provided three key reports relevant to part two of your request:

- *Student allowances: Directions for Budget 2012*
- *Student Allowances: Further advice on Budget 2012 options*

- *Student allowances: Removing eligibility for postgraduate students.*

At the time of this response, some of the material within these three reports was withheld under the Act under 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 individuals’.

On 17 May 2013 I received correspondence from the Office of the Ombudsman requesting that I reconsider the material withheld in these reports under section 9(2)(f)(iv), in light of decisions which have since been announced publicly as part of Budget 2013.

I have now reconsidered this material. In light of information that is now in the public domain, many of the previously redacted passages can now be released.

Some of the material is still withheld under section 9(2)(f)(iv) of the Act. These sections are marked in the attached documents. Some information continues to be withheld under section 9(2)(h) – ‘to maintain legal professional privilege’.

Under sections 19 and 28(3) of the Act you have the right to ask the Ombudsman to review this decision.

Yours sincerely



Steven Joyce
Minister for Tertiary Education, Skills and Employment

Cc Leanne Stewart, Senior Investigator, Office of the Ombudsman