



Office of Hon Hekia Parata

Minister of Education
Minister of Pacific Island Affairs

4 April 2013

Richard O'Keefe
fyi-request-808-19486ed2@requests.fyi.org.nz

Tēnā koe Dr O'Keefe

On behalf of Hon Hekia Parata, Minister of Education, I acknowledge receipt of your email of 3 April 2013 in which you have sought, under the Official Information Act 1982, specific information relating to the Technical Review of Novopay

Your request has been considered under the Official Information Act.

Transfer of Request - Section 14(b)(i), Official Information Act 1982

The scope of your request is more in line with the portfolio delegations of the Minister responsible for Novopay. Accordingly, your request has been transferred, under section 14(b)(i) of the Act, to the office of Hon Steven Joyce and will be responded to under the provisions of the Official Information Act 1982.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Simon Laube".

Simon Laube
Private Secretary (Education)

Hiria Parata (MIN)

From: Dr Richard A. O'Keefe <fyi-request-808-19486ed2@requests.fyi.org.nz>
Sent: Wednesday, 3 April 2013 12:10 p.m.
To: H Parata (MIN)
Subject: Official Information Act request - Authorship and skills of Novopay Technical Review

Categories: OIA

Dear Minister of Education,

When Steven Joyce announced that there would be a Technical Review of the Novopay system, the public were told who would lead the review (Murray Jack of Deloitte) but we were not told anything at all about anyone else involved.

When the Technical Review Final Report was released, it was completely anonymous. This is extremely regrettable, because the report is optimistic about the prospects of the system but very short on technical details that might warrant such optimism.

I have no wish to see any individual publicly embarrassed by their role in creating the Novopay Technical Review Final Report, but I do believe that public confidence in the report might be restored by providing such information as would tend to create trust in their judgement.

Specifically, I want to know

1. How many people were engaged in the actual process of technical review?
2. What experience did these people have in software development and maintenance, actual hands-on-the-code experience, as opposed to management?
3. What experience did these people have in user interface design and testing for end users? Again, actual hands-on work experience rather than management is what I'm asking about.
4. Did any of the reviewers have hands-on programming experience with Alesco?
5. Were the reviewers all normally employed by Deloitte, and if not, in what areas of the IT industry were they normally employed?
6. Was the final report submitted to all the review team for approval or should it be taken as one person's summary of their work?
7. Scope point 8 "The effectiveness of data entry into the system, including system validation and quality assurance" is not clearly covered in the Final Report. What did the review team actually do to judge this effectiveness?

8. Were the review team allowed to inspect the actual source code of the Novopay system (at least the part specifically developed for Novopay).

9. The Final Report refers repeatedly to Talent2 failing to provide requested information. For example, on page 31, "Solution architecture documentation." Now "application architecture" was stability and technical suitability point 2 on p3 of the terms of reference. What reasons did Talent2 give for failing to provide this information or the "formal process documentation" also referred to on page 31? How were the reviewers able to judge the architecture or processes without this information?

I would be grateful for information on any of these points. Points 1-5 should be readily answered by edited extracts from the CVs of the review team. Point 9 might require correspondence from Talent2 to be excerpted. The other points should be answerable from the review team's logs.

Yours faithfully,

Dr Richard A. O'Keefe

Please use this email address for all replies to this request:
fyi-request-808-19486ed2@requests.fyi.org.nz

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