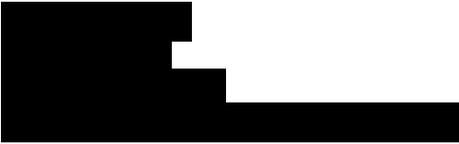




9 June 2021



Tēnā koe 

Thank you for your emails of 17 and 19 March 2021 to the Ministry of Education, attached as **Appendix One**.

On 1 April 2021, you clarified both of your requests as:

Request dated: 17 March 2021

1. *any information, documentation (including the draft curriculum) and instructions that were sent to external stakeholders in order to help them form views on the draft curriculum. I assume the Ministry can easily narrow down the dates on which it sent its main communications to these stakeholders and can provide me with any information, documentation and instructions that were included.*

Request dated: 19 March 2021

2. *copies of any email correspondence (internally or externally) entered into by Christine Dew and Pauline Cleaver in the month prior to 23 August 2019 which contains discussions about what content to recommend for inclusion, and what content not to recommend for inclusion, in Aotearoa New Zealand's histories.*
3. *copies of any email correspondence (internally or externally) entered into by Stephanie McHardie and Pauline Cleaver in the month prior to 30 August 2018 which contains discussions about what content to recommend for inclusion, and what content not to recommend for inclusion, in Aotearoa New Zealand's histories.*

Your requests have been considered under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act).

Drafting the curriculum content

During 2018, more than 43,000 New Zealanders, including educators, parents, children and young people, Māori, Pacific communities, people with disabilities and those needing learning support, told us what they wanted in their future education system through the [Kōrero Mātauranga | Education Conversations](#). Feedback revealed a clear picture of what young people felt needed to be taught in schools, specifically in relation to understanding New Zealand's background and heritage and how this has influenced where we are today. This was thought to promote better understanding between different cultural groups.

Kōrero Mātauranga led to the Prime Minister announcing that Aotearoa New Zealand's histories will be taught in schools and kura from 2022. Further information about the Prime

Minister's announcement can be found at the following link: [NZ history to be taught in all schools | Beehive.govt.nz](https://www.beehive.govt.nz/news/nz-history-to-be-taught-in-all-schools)

The Ministry has engaged with several stakeholder groups to assist us in producing the draft curriculum content that was under consultation for public feedback from 3 February until 31 May 2021. It is important for us to ensure that the design and development approach is reflective of the views and aspirations of all New Zealanders. Stakeholder groups have been established to ensure these voices guide, inform and contribute to the Ministry's development of the curriculum content.

The stakeholder groups include:

- **Te Whakaruruhau:** comprised of pakeke drawn from diverse backgrounds with extensive experience in Māori history and whakapapa, as well as knowledge and understanding of the contemporary Te Tiriti o Waitangi post settlement era.
- **Ohu Matua (Reference group):** comprised of curricula and history experts, Māori, Pākehā, Pacific, migrant communities, disabled peoples, teachers, and curriculum leaders.
- **Curriculum Design (Writing) groups:** consisting of curriculum and history experts which focus on either *Te Marautanga o Aotearoa* or *The New Zealand Curriculum*.
- **Curriculum Rauemi (resources)/Supports groups:** these groups review, design, and develop curriculum and workforce supports alongside the key narrators and holders of these histories.
- **Interagency Group:** selected to provide representation of key government agencies that can contribute critical information in the design, development, and implementation of the New Zealand's histories curriculum update.
- **Independent Expert Advisory group:** convened by the Royal Society Te Apārangi, they act as a body of knowledge in relation to New Zealand's histories. The group advise the curriculum writers as content is developed advise the Ministry as we receive feedback on the content and look to develop supports and resources to go alongside the curriculum update.

To ensure that the membership of the Ohu Matua reference group is representative and has the appropriate and credible expertise, we have sought quality assurance from the established interagency group, which includes representatives from agencies such as the Ministry for Culture and Heritage, Te Puni Kōkiri, Te Arawhiti, Ministry for Pacific Peoples, Office of Ethnic Communities, Ministry for Women, Museums Aotearoa, NZQA, the Teaching Council and Te Aho o Te Kura Pounamu.

For further reference, I am providing you with a list of all the agencies involved in each National stakeholder group, and have included some background information about the representatives of the Curriculum Design Writing Groups, attached as **Appendix A**.

In July 2020, a version of the draft curriculum content was given to Ohu Matua for feedback. Overall, the feedback was positive, but there was some thought that some aspects of the structure was too complex, some content needed to be under broader heading whereas other content needed more detail such as the New Zealand Wars, Pacific people, and migrants.

In October 2020, Ohu Matua had its second opportunity to provide feedback on the curriculum. The feedback was generally positive; however, it was requested that Māori, Chinese and Pacific histories be more explicit in the contexts (the know section). The writers continued to

refine the draft curriculum content using this advice to create a version that was used for testing in a small number of schools during November 2020. 41 schools submitted feedback. This feedback informed the writing group in creating the draft curriculum content which is currently under consultation.

During 2020, an independent advisory group was convened with the Royal Society to provide feedback to the writers as the draft curriculum was being updated. This group met representatives of the writers three times over Zoom between March 2020 and August 2020 and presented a written response.

The schools, Ohu Matua and Royal Society feedback was used to produce the draft curriculum content out for public consultation from 3 February 2021. This draft was more conceptual than the earlier draft in response to the sector feedback.

Now that the public consultation has closed, all the feedback received (i.e. from sector, reference and advisory groups and as a result of the public consultation) will be independently analysed by the New Zealand Council for Educational Research and this will be used by the curriculum writing group to amend the curriculum content if necessary. Once we receive the key themes of the feedback, we will publish them online.

We recognise there is strong public interest in this subject and are conscious to ensure there is sufficient information within the public domain to enable public participation in the development of the updated curriculum content. We are continuously reviewing the information that is available and as such are in the process of preparing further information for release regarding the development of the draft curriculum content. This will include such things as the Terms of Reference of the Advisory Groups. When this is made available, you will be able to find it on the Ministry's Website at:

<https://www.education.govt.nz/our-work/changes-in-education/aotearoa-new-zealand-histories-in-our-national-curriculum/more-information-about-the-aotearoa-new-zealand-histories/>

Request dated 17 March 2021

As advised in our extension letter, we have interpreted your reference to "*the draft curriculum*" within your request dated 17 March 2021 to reference the national curriculum, which includes both *Te Marautanga o Aotearoa* and *The New Zealand Curriculum*.

Within *The New Zealand Curriculum*, which is used mostly in an English medium pathway, is the Social Science learning area, and within that is the Aotearoa New Zealand's Histories (ANZH) curriculum. This informs Aotearoa New Zealand's histories in an English medium educational setting.

Within *Te Marautanga o Aotearoa*, which is used mostly in a Māori medium pathway, is the wāhanga ako Tikanga ā-Iwi and within that is the proposed new whenu, Te Takanga o Te Wā. This informs Aotearoa New Zealand's histories for *Te Marautanga o Aotearoa*.

Considerations about what potential content to include in the draft curriculum were completed mainly through in-person discussions and wānanga that were informed and led by the external stakeholders themselves.

We have identified **19 documents** in scope of this request and have provided them in **Appendix B**. I have not included administrative information regarding the way we engaged with the stakeholder groups throughout the development of the draft curriculum, including

meeting invitations, agendas, or minutes, as we do not believe it to be in scope of your request for 'information sent to help form views'.

Some information within 6 of these documents I am releasing to you has been withheld under the following sections of the Act:

- Names and contact information of external stakeholders have been withheld under section 9(2)(a) to protect their privacy.
- Names of ex-Ministry staff have been withheld under section 9(2)(a).

Request dated 19 March 2021

This request is specifically for information pertaining to the Ministry staff members Stephanie McHardie, Christine Dew, and Pauline Cleaver. All these staff members were involved in the development of the ANZH curriculum content.

Discussions on potential content for inclusion within the ANZH curriculum were in-person discussions, informed by feedback from Kōrero Mātauranga | Education Conversation reports. Therefore, there is little email correspondence.

We have identified 12 documents in scope of this request and have provided them in **Appendix C**. Some information within 9 of these documents has been withheld under the following sections of the Act:

- Names of ex-Ministry staff have been withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the Act, to protect their privacy.
- Mobile numbers of Ministry staff have been withheld under section 9(2)(a)
- Estimated budget values have been withheld under section 9(2)(g)(i) of the Act, as they were provided as free and frank advice.
- Names of staff no longer working in the Minister's Office have been withheld under section (9)(2)(a) of the Act.

As required under section 9(1) of the Act, I have had regard to the public interest considerations favouring the release of the information withheld. I do not consider the public interest considerations favouring the release of this information sufficient to outweigh the need to withhold it at this time.

Please note, the Ministry now proactively publishes OIA responses on our website. As such, we may publish this response on our website after five working days. Your name and contact details will be removed.

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.

Yours sincerely



Ellen MacGregor-Reid
Deputy Secretary
Early Learning and Student Achievement

Appendix One

Serah Pettigrew

From: Enquiries National
Sent: Thursday, 1 April 2021 11:25 AM
To: 9(2)(a)
Subject: FW: FW: Clarification for OIA's 1254196 & 1254553

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Hi 9(2)(a)

9(2)(a) has refined both his OIA requests below.

I have re-started the clock for these. They are now due by 4 May.

Thanks

Melissa Coleman | Team Leader, GEMS
DDI +6444638330

From: 9(2)(a)
Sent: Thursday, 1 April 2021 11:12 AM
To: Enquiries National <enquiries.national@education.govt.nz>
Subject: Re: FW: Clarification for OIA's 1254196 & 1254553

Hi,

Re: Request dated: 17 March 2021

I am not seeking all correspondence with this group of stakeholders. I am seeking any information, documentation (including the draft curriculum) and instructions that were sent in order to help them form views on the draft curriculum. I assume the Ministry can easily narrow down the dates on which it sent its main communications to these stakeholders and can provide me with any information, documentation and instructions that were included. I don't believe this request needs to be narrowed down.

Re: Request dated: 19 March 2021

I'm willing to re-word this to:

"Re Briefing Note 1203007, please provide copies of any email correspondence (internally or externally) entered into by Christine Dew and Pauline Cleaver in the month prior to 23 August 2019 which contains discussions about what content to recommend for inclusion, and what content not to recommend for inclusion, in Aotearoa New Zealand's histories.

Re Briefing Note 1204074, please provide copies of any email correspondence (internally or externally) entered into by Stephanie McHardie and Pauline Cleaver in the month prior to 30 August 2018 which contains discussions about what content to recommend for inclusion, and what content not to recommend for inclusion, in Aotearoa New Zealand's histories."

From: Enquiries National
Sent: Thursday, 25 March 2021 10:54:03 AM (UTC+12:00) Auckland, Wellington
To: 9(2)(a) [REDACTED]
Subject: Clarification for OIA's 1254196 & 1254553

Tēnā koe 9(2)(a) [REDACTED]

Thank you for your emails of 17 & 19 March 2021 to the Ministry of Education requesting the following information:

Request dated: 17 March 2021

Please provide me with any and all information and documentation the Ministry of Education provided to “historical and curriculum experts, iwi and mana whenua, Pacific communities, the sector, students, parents and whanau” to help them “collaboratively develop a New Zealand’s histories update to the National Curriculum”.

Request dated: 19 March 2021

“...I am also seeking internal correspondence relating to potential content for Aotearoa New Zealand’s histories.

Please provide all internal correspondence which contains discussions about what content to recommended for inclusion, and what content not to recommend for inclusion, in Aotearoa New Zealand’s histories (see paragraphs 10 and 11 in each of the briefings below):

<https://www.education.govt.nz/assets/Documents/Ministry/Information-releases/2019-releases/NZ-Histories/R-5-1203007-BN-Hipkins-Redacted.pdf>

<https://www.education.govt.nz/assets/Documents/Ministry/Information-releases/2019-releases/NZ-Histories/R-4-1204074-ER-Hipkins-Davis-Redacted.pdf>”

Your requests have been considered under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act).

Your requests, as currently worded, are very broad in nature and scope and would require extensive searches of Ministry correspondence channels and information management systems across an indefinite time period.

The information you requested cannot be made available without substantial collation and research. To avoid refusing your request under section 18(f), we like to invite you to narrow or refine the scope of your request. For example, is there a particular time period and/or particular type of document(s) you are interested in?

Once we have your clarification, we will commence work on your request. Please note that any clarification or amendment of a request is considered to be a new request for the purpose of calculating the maximum statutory timeframe for response.

Nāku noa, nā

Enquiries National Team | Ministry of Education | TW

33 Bowen St, Wellington

education.govt.nz | [Follow us on Twitter: @EducationGovtNZ](https://twitter.com/EducationGovtNZ)

We get the job done *Ka oti i a mātou ngā mahi*

We are respectful, we listen, we learn *He rōpū manaaki, he rōpū whakarongo, he rōpū ako mātou*

We back ourselves and others to win *Ka manawanui ki a mātou, me ētahi ake kia wīkitoria*

We work together for maximum impact *Ka mahi ngātahi mō te tūkinga nui tonu*

Great results are our bottom line *Ko ngā huanga tino pai ā mātou whāinga mutunga*



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