



16 June 2021

[REDACTED]

Tēnā koe [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email of 25 May 2021 to the Ministry of Education requesting the following information pertaining to the draft curriculum content for Aotearoa New Zealand's histories:

- 1. Which agencies, organisations and contactors have been involved in producing this document?*
- 2. Has the Ministry of Education contracted historians/academics in drafting this document, if so whom and what is their professional affiliation?*
- 3. What were the total external costs associated with producing the draft curriculum document, including costs of the consultation with advisory groups, total costs of the curriculum writers and total costs of the printing and design of the documents?*

Your request has been considered under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act).

Drafting the curriculum content

During 2018, more than 43,000 New Zealanders, including educators, whanau, 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 and kura, 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.

The Prime Minister announced that Aotearoa New Zealand's histories will be taught in all 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](#).

The Ministry has engaged with several stakeholder groups to assist us in producing the draft curriculum content which was under consultation for public feedback from 3 February 2021 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, as well as the education sector, students, parents and whānau, the disabled community and historians. Groups have been established to ensure these voices guide, inform and contribute to the Ministry's development of the curriculum content.

The 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*.
- **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.

You will be able to find additional information about how the draft curriculum content was developed on the Ministry's website, including information about the agencies and individuals who were involved in the development of the draft curriculum content. Further information, including the Terms of Reference for the Advisory Groups, a list of the agencies involved, and additional information about the members of the Curriculum Design Writing Group, can also be found on the Ministry's website at the following link: <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/>.

Additionally, as we respond to other requests for information on this topic they will be made available at the following link: <https://www.education.govt.nz/our-work/information-releases/responses-to-official-information-act-requests/>.

Therefore, I am refusing your request for a list of the agencies involved in drafting curriculum content under section 18(d) of the Act, as the information is or will soon be made publicly available.

We have formal contracts with the members of the Curriculum Design Writing Group for their input in developing the curriculum. Additionally, we have offered all Ohu Matua members payment for Teacher Release Days or the equivalent, alongside travel and accommodation costs for any meetings. Once the Terms of Reference for Te Whakaruruhau are finalised, the members will also be paid for their time and expertise.

As we advised in our letter dated 8 June 2021, there are both internal and external costs associated with producing the draft curriculum document. The internal costs include the cost of permanent Ministry of Education officials that are funded out of the Ministry's baselines and

it is not possible to separate the cost of their work on the draft curriculum document from other work they may have been undertaking.

Therefore, we have included the following external costs associated with producing the draft curriculum content that was open to consultation.

Costs of consultation with Advisory Groups

The costs we have included within this category include catering, travel, and Teacher Release Days or Equivalent for the Ohu Matua reference group members, as well as costs of developing and testing the document during the schools testing phase in October 2020. The development and testing costs include the survey by Te Paetawhiti, administrative costs for the advice from The Royal Society of NZ, and the costs of designing and distributing materials to support schools involved in testing curriculum content.

Contract payments to Curriculum Writers

I have included the total costs related to the Curriculum Writers' work to design the draft content. We have not included costs associated with the Curriculum Writers' ongoing support of the curriculum since 3 February 2021, during the public engagement period.

Costs of production of the documents

These are costs associated with translation of curriculum content into other languages, design of the draft curriculum document, and printing of the curriculum documents and supporting materials prior to the start of the public engagement period on 3 February 2021.

Category of Costs	Total Amount Spent*
Consultation with Advisory Groups	\$ 68,332
Contract payments to Curriculum Writers	\$142,336
Costs of production of the documents	\$ 6,041
Total	\$217,070

*Total amount spent as at 3 June 2021

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.

Nāku noa, nā



Ellen MacGregor-Reid
Deputy Secretary
Early Learning and Student Achievement