



09 September 2020

[REDACTED]

Tēnā koe [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email of 19 August to the Ministry of Education requesting the following information:

- *The name and bio of each members from each of these [NCEA] panels and their term of appointment. Also the term of reference of each panel, any minutes they have so far, what is their pay rate and what benefit they getting. Further, how you call for expression of interest and how you select them to the panel.*

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

We have identified 12 documents in scope of your request, these are outlined in the table attached as **Appendix A**, together with my decision on their release.

Some information has been withheld from these documents under sections 9(2)(g)(i) and 9(2)(f)(iv) of the Act. This information has been withheld to protect the confidentiality of advice tendered by officials, and to maintain the effective conduct of public affairs through the free and frank expression of opinions. I have identified no public interest considerations sufficient to outweigh the need to withhold this information.

The Ministry does not hold biographies on the panel members. Panel members were selected for meeting certain criteria, including having strong expertise, knowledge and experience relevant to their respective NCEA Panel. Therefore we are refusing this part of your request under section 18(e) as the information requested does not exist.

The pay rate and term of appointment for panel members is included in the terms of reference for each panel, which is attached in **Appendix A**.

Expressions of Interest (EOI) for the Māori, Pacific People, Disability & Learning Support and Pathways NCEA Panels were called for in December 2019. These Panels were established to advise on the development of new products and system shifts for the NCEA Change Programme, and to provide input at critical points in the design and implementation of the NCEA changes.

The advertisement was published on the Kōrero Mātauranga website, and linked to in the Education Gazette and Ministry bulletins, as well as being sent to subject associations and distributed through Ministry sponsored subject distribution lists. Throughout the Review of NCEA, the Ministry have connected with a wide range of stakeholders, communities and

organisations who have direct expertise and experience relevant to the focus of the NCEA Panels, and EOI's for the Panels were also advertised through these networks and channels.

We received over 130 applications across the four panels, which Ministry Panel Leads reviewed against a selection criteria to ensure a breadth of skills and diversity of experience is reflected in each group.

Candidates were shortlisted based on their relevant experience and expertise. Shortlists were approved by a Group manager and panel leads then called shortlisted candidates to work through their:

- understanding of the role, including the purpose and dynamics;
- ability to commit to the required responsibilities, including workload and scheduled meetings; and
- suitability as a member based on this information.

Reference checks were also undertaken. Panel leads then emailed successful candidates with key documents and information.

Please note, the Ministry now proactively publishes responses under the Act 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



Jackie Talbot
Group Manager
Secondary Tertiary and Partnership Schools