



9 March 2021



Tēnā koe 

Thank you for your email of 10 February 2021 to the Ministry of Education requesting the following information:

- 1. Any draft reports sent to the Ministry of Minister of Education by the Religious Diversity Centre and/or Religious Diversity Trust in the last two years. If any reports are under active consideration and can therefore not be released, please provide a date for when you expect it can be released.*
- 2. Any and all internal and external correspondence, formal and informal, between Chris Hipkins, Helen Clark, and Golriz Gharaman in the last two years regarding the topics of religious education and/or instruction.*

Where information is withheld, I request you provide the title and date of the communication/document withheld, the reason for refusal, and the grounds in support of that reason as required by section 19(a)(i) and (ii) of the Official Information Act.

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

I am withholding the draft report by the Religious Diversity Centre under section 9(2)(f)(iv) of the Act, as to maintain the constitutional conventions for the time being which protect the confidentiality of advice tendered by Ministers of the Crown and officials.

Given the public interest in this report, we will seek agreement to proactively release or publish this report once it has been finalised. We expect this to happen in the first half of this year.

I would normally look to transfer the second part of this request to the Minister of Education, Hon Chris Hipkins for response, as the information is not held by the Ministry and is more closely connected to the functions of the Minister. I understand you have made this request to the office of the Minister as well. Therefore, you can expect to receive an answer to this part of your request from the Minister of Education.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. Schöllmann', written in a cursive style.

Dr Andrea Schöllmann
Deputy Secretary
Education System Policy