



Te Pūkenga

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09 August 2024

s 9(2)(a)

Tēnā koe s 9(2)(a)

Request under the Official Information Act 1982

Thank you for your email of 05 July 2024, requesting the following information from Te Pūkenga – New Zealand Institute of Skills and Technology (Te Pūkenga) and its business divisions:

Can I please request the following information under the OIA, for each of the institutes which Te Pūkenga [sic] umbrellas:

- (i) Total in-class contact hours, for the courses which your institute delivers, for the past 3 financial years (July 1st 2023 to June 30th 2024, July 1st 2022 to June 30th 2023, and July 1st 2021 to June 30th 2022).*
- (ii) Planned changes in in-class contact hours for these courses, for the next financial year (July 1st 2024 to June 30th 2025).*
- (iii) Planned changes to the fees you will charge students for these courses for the next financial year (July 1st 2024 to June 30th 2025).*

To provide some context to this request, this request is being sent to all tertiary institutes, to understand the impact of the current government's policies on in class delivery hours, and changes in fees over the next financial year.

This letter provides a formal decision on your request under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA).

The decision

We note that Te Pūkenga provider-based business divisions do not operate in accordance with a financial year timeline. Our business operations are centred around the Academic calendar, which runs from 1 January to 31 December of any given year. Course reviews, when required, are conducted in accordance with the Academic calendar, or the broader Academic cycle, where full programme reviews are undertaken to maintain programme currency and ensure quality. Any changes made to a course would be implemented at the start of the following delivery occurrence. Similarly, financial

planning is undertaken with a view for implementation at the beginning of the following calendar/Academic year.

With regard to your requests, we advise the following:

- (i) We have consulted with subject matter experts (SMEs) from within our network regarding our ability to obtain the requisite data to formulate a response to this request. It was agreed by our SMEs that the effort to coordinate and extract the requested data would be a significant undertaking and at considerable cost. The process would require dedicated teams, manually working through individual documents and change process outputs at a granular level. While there is potential to extract data relating to current directed hours at course level from within our student management systems, the data held within these systems does not include legacy data relating to delivery hours, therefore it would not be possible to quantify change over time. We also note that Te Pūkenga is comprised of 15 individual provider-based business divisions (those we have identified as within scope of your request). All of these divisions operate on separate and different systems. For these reasons, we must refuse this request under section 18(f) of the OIA, as the information requested cannot be made available without substantial collation or research, which would cause disruption to day-to-day operations within our business divisions.
- (ii) Courses are reviewed and if required, any identified changes are implemented at the beginning of the next delivery occurrence. Te Pūkenga business divisions are currently in the process of planning any updates for 2025 should they be required. Therefore, any potential changes to be implemented for 2025 delivery are not yet confirmed, so we must refuse your request under section 18(e) of the OIA, as the information requested does not exist.

We note your email dated 31 July 2024 requested this item be changed to read 'qualifications' as opposed to 'courses', however the above still applies to both qualifications and courses.

- (iii) In accordance with regulatory requirements, no fee changes can be made mid-Academic year. Therefore, we can confirm no fee changes are to be applied between July-December 2024. With respect of 2025 fee setting, Te Pūkenga business divisions are currently in the process of planning for 2025 operations and delivery, which includes budget setting. Consequently, fee changes have yet to be confirmed. We do note that Te Pūkenga Executive Leadership Team resolved at their meeting of 2 July 2024 that business divisions were approved to apply the following fee increases for 2025:

Domestic Fees: As per approved pricing:

- Domestic Tuition fee and Compulsory Student Services Fee (CSSF) – increase by Annual Maximum Fee Movement (AMFM)
- CSSF – increase by CPI 4% to maintain existing levels of service
- Other revenue at CPI 4% or contract rates.

International Fees: As per 2025 approved international pricing.

With respect to all three of your requests we advise we have only considered provider-based business divisions in our response, as all requests relate to “in-class contact hours”, which are not applicable within the context of our work-based learning business divisions.

Finally, regarding your comment “*this request is being sent to all tertiary institutes, to understand the impact of the current government’s policies on in class delivery hours, and changes in fees over the next financial year*”, we would like to advise that the directed and self-directed learning hours of a course are determined based on a number of factors, such as credit value of the course, duration, course level, and regulatory requirements, all in accordance with the mode of delivery. Such determinations are made based on what is best in order to support learners in achieving the learning outcomes of the course and the overarching graduate profile for the programme in question. Academic credibility and quality take precedence.

You have the right to make a complaint to the Ombudsman under section 28(3) of the OIA if you are not happy with this response. Information about how to do this is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or by calling 0800 802 602.

We may publish our OIA responses and the information contained in our reply to you on our website. Before publishing we will remove any personal or identifiable information.

Ngā mihi

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gus Gilmore', with a large, stylized flourish above the name.

Gus Gilmore
Tumuaki | Chief Executive