



Te Pūkenga

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07 June 2024

s 9(2)(a)

By email: s 9(2)(a)

Tēnā koe s 9(2)(a)

Request under the Official Information Act 1982

Thank you for your email of 10 May 2024, requesting the following information from Te Pūkenga – New Zealand Institute of Skills and Technology (Te Pūkenga):

1. *Copies of all letters, emails, action points, text messages, electronic messaging or any other documents that resulted from Peter Winder and Murray Strong's meeting with the Minister of Tertiary Education and Skills on 30 November 2023.*
2. *Copies of all letters, emails, text messages, or any form of electronic messaging sent by Peter Winder to Penny Simmonds.*
3. *Copies of all letters, emails, text messages, or any form of electronic messaging sent by Murray Strong to Penny Simmonds.*

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

Interpretation and the November meeting

We have interpreted all three questions of your request to relate to Te Pūkenga initial meeting with our new Minister for Tertiary Education and Skills, Hon Penny Simmonds.

This meeting was held on Thursday 30 November 2023 at 1.30pm in Minister Simmonds' office at Parliament. Attendees at the meeting included: Hon Penny Simmonds; Murray Strong, former Te Pūkenga Council Chair; Peter Winder, former Te Pūkenga Chief Executive; Tim Fowler, Tertiary Education Commission Chief Executive; and the Minister's advisor.

We have interpreted question one to be for *letters, emails, action points, text messages, electronic messaging or any other documents* as a direct result of the meeting.

We have interpreted questions two and three as *letters, emails, text messages, or any form of electronic messaging sent after 30 November 2023.*

The decision

Question One

The document within scope of this question is the same as that within scope of your other OIA request dated 10 May, reference TP240048. Therefore, to avoid duplication we are addressing this part of your request within our response to that OIA request rather than here.

Question Two

I am aware that Peter Winder, in his former role as Chief Executive, attempted to contact Hon Penny Simmonds by telephone, to congratulate her on her Ministerial appointment, and left a voice message. It is my understanding that this occurred prior to the meeting so, while we mention it here for the sake of completeness, we note it is not within scope of this question.

With reference to section 18(e) of the OIA, I am not aware of any communication from Mr Winder to the Minister via letter, text message or other form of electronic messaging after the November meeting. As Mr Winder is no longer an employee of Te Pūkenga we do not have access to his mobile phone and therefore we are unable to carry out a further search for texts or other mobile electronic messaging.

In regard to email communications, one email was found from Mr Winder accepting the 30 November 2023 meeting invitation. This has been included as Document 1 in **Appendix One**. No other email communications were found.

Question Three

Two letters fall within scope of this question, which were emailed to the Minister's office:

- Letter dated 8 Hakihea (December) 2023, sent in response to receipt of the Minister's Letter of Expectations. With reference to section 18(d) of the OIA, this letter is published on our website and can be found as Document 1 on page 1, at:
www.tepukenga.ac.nz/assets/OIA-Responses/TP240008-Appendix-One_Redacted.pdf
- Letter dated 8 December 2023, resignation letter.
Please find a copy of this letter attached as Document 2 in **Appendix One**.

I am not aware of any communication from Mr Strong to the Minister via text or other form of electronic messaging after the November meeting. As Mr Strong is no longer on Te Pūkenga Council we are unable to carry out a further search for any text or electronic messaging via his mobile phone.

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 circular flourish above the name.

Gus Gilmore
Tumuaki | Chief Executive