



Te Pūkenga

Level 2, Wintec House
Cnr Anglesea and Nisbet St.
Hamilton 3204

0800 86 22 84
info@tepūkenga.ac.nz
tepūkenga.ac.nz

29 January 2024

s 9(2)(a)

By email: s 9(2)(a)

Tēnā koe s 9(2)(a)

Request under the Official Information Act 1982 – Meeting with new Minister

Thank you for your email of 9 December 2023, requesting the following information from Te Pūkenga – New Zealand Institute of Skills and Technology (Te Pūkenga), we have numbered your queries for ease of reference:

- 1. The date, time and location of your initial meeting with the new Minister for your department;*
- 2. A list of attendees at this meeting*
- 3. The cost of any flights and accommodation for staff who reside outside of wellington to attend this meeting*
- 4. Any documentation provided at the meeting*
- 5. All notes (including handwritten notes) taken at the meeting by department staff;*
- 6. A copy of any emails sent by department attendees or all staff communications regarding the meeting with the new Minister.*

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

The decision

Question 1

Te Pūkenga initial meeting with our new Minister for Tertiary Education and Skills, Hon Penny Simmonds, was held on Thursday 30 November 2023 at 1.30pm in Minister Simmonds' office at Parliament.

Question 2

Attendees at the meeting included: Hon Penny Simmonds; Murray Strong, Te Pūkenga Council Chair; Peter Winder, Te Pūkenga Chief Executive; Tim Fowler, Tertiary Education Commission Chief Executive; and the Minister's advisor.

Question 3

The cost of flights and accommodation for Mr Winder and Mr Strong to attend the meeting are provided in the table below.

| Kaimahi | Accommodation (\$ incl GST) | Flights (\$ incl GST) |
|---------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------|
| Peter Winder | \$269.10 | \$847.39 |
| Murray Strong | \$240.00 | \$663.09 |

Questions 4 and 5

There was no documentation provided at the meeting, nor were there any notes taken at the meeting by Te Pūkenga kaimahi, therefore we must refuse these two parts of your request with reliance on section 18(e) of the OIA as the information requested does not exist.

Question 6

An email was sent by Peter Winder to all Te Pūkenga kaimahi via Ngā Taipitopito, our internal newsletter system, on Friday 1 December 2023, which included information about the meeting. With reference to section 16(1)(e) of the OIA we provide an extract from this email with the information within scope below.

Extract from email titled: Ngā Taipitopito | Peter Winder has a first meeting with the new Minister.

Yesterday, Board Chair Murray Strong and I met with new Minister of Tertiary Education and Skills, Hon. Penny Simmonds. Many of you will know her from her tenure as Chief Executive of Southern Institute of Technology (SIT). As you will have seen in the Government's 100 day plan announcements, the Government intends to "begin disestablishing Te Pūkenga". The Minister has undertaken to provide us with a new Letter of Expectations shortly. Once we receive this, we will have greater clarity about the direction the Government wishes to take in relation to vocational education and training.

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.

Ngā mihi



Gus Gilmore
Tumuaki Taupua | Acting Chief Executive