



**Te Pūkenga**

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20 May 2025



By email: [redacted]

Tēnā koe [redacted]

### **Request under the Official Information Act 1982**

Thank you for your email of 24 April 2025, requesting the following information from Te Pūkenga – New Zealand Institute of Skills and Technology (Te Pūkenga):

*... all cost savings and cost cutting initiatives for Te Pūkenga from the date after its 2023 annual report ended, to now.*

*Please include details of any job cuts, and copies of communications to staff regarding cost-cutting or restructures.*

*Please also include any future proposals that would see job cuts, or further cost savings, and where the cost savings are going.*

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

### **Background**

Te Pūrongo ā-Tau Annual Report for Te Pūkenga 2023 covered the calendar year 2023. Our Annual Report for 2024 is currently going through the audit process and will then be tabled in parliament, after which time it will be publicly available as well.

You may find it useful to read the *Progressing financial sustainability initiatives* letter dated 20 May 2024, sent to Te Pūkenga Council Acting Chair, from the Minister for Tertiary Education and Skills (now Minister for Vocational Education), Hon Penny Simmonds, available online here: [www.tepūkenga.ac.nz/assets/Publications/Letter-of-expectations-Dec-2023/Letter-to-Te-Pukenga-clarifying-aspects-of-Letter-of-Expectations.pdf](http://www.tepūkenga.ac.nz/assets/Publications/Letter-of-expectations-Dec-2023/Letter-to-Te-Pukenga-clarifying-aspects-of-Letter-of-Expectations.pdf). Within the letter the Minister set out her expectations that Te Pūkenga takes action to improve the financial performance and viability of our whole network.

On 14 June 2024, Te Pūkenga was directed by the Tertiary Education Commission (TEC) under section 332 of the Education and Training Act 2020 to obtain specialist support to review and improve the viability of our 16 provider-based business divisions.

Business divisions began some right-sizing activities in 2024. This work continues through 2025 as part of efforts to ensure a sustainable sector as part of the Government's re-shaping of the vocational education and training system. Te Pūkenga national office and each of our business divisions have been tasked with looking carefully at kaimahi (staff), ākonga (learner) enrolments, kaiako (teacher) to ākonga ratios, programmes and courses offered, administration and operations, properties (including those owned and leased), and community needs among other variables. With this information we are currently, and will continue to, carefully propose specific changes for each area that will help individual divisions to become and/or remain financially viable into the future, where possible.

### **The decision**

Your request is very broad and covers a wide range of detail across the motu. We have previously released a lot of information in relation to the points you raise and believe much of it will address your queries in the first instance without the need to refine or refuse your request under 18(f) of the OIA (*that the information requested cannot be made available without substantial collation or research*).

Therefore, with reference to section 18(d) of the OIA (*that the information requested is or will soon be publicly available*), we set out the following OIA responses published on our website, in response to your queries. While we are aware they may not completely cover all your points, we believe they will be very informative and provide you with a lot of detail to satisfy the public interest in your queries, in addition to providing a useful base for narrowing any future search for specific information that is not already available.

- Rationale, Minister expectations, decisions and actions for Te Pūkenga business divisions to remain or become financially viable:  
[www.tepukenga.ac.nz/assets/OIA-Responses/April-2025/TP250024-OIA-Response.pdf](http://www.tepukenga.ac.nz/assets/OIA-Responses/April-2025/TP250024-OIA-Response.pdf)
- Reports to the Minister for Tertiary Education and Skills (now Minister for Vocational Education), including actions underway and undertaken to reduce spend and kaimahi:  
[www.tepukenga.ac.nz/assets/OIA-Responses/October-2024/TP240097-OIA-Response.pdf](http://www.tepukenga.ac.nz/assets/OIA-Responses/October-2024/TP240097-OIA-Response.pdf)
- Consultations with kaimahi, reduction of full-time equivalent roles and courses:  
[www.tepukenga.ac.nz/assets/OIA-Responses/March-2025/TP240149-OIA-Response.pdf](http://www.tepukenga.ac.nz/assets/OIA-Responses/March-2025/TP240149-OIA-Response.pdf)
- Reversal of Tāraia te anamata – Creating Our Futures, Te Pūkenga National Office review, general communication to kaimahi regarding the disestablishment of Te Pūkenga:  
[www.tepukenga.ac.nz/assets/OIA-Responses/August-2024/TP240072/TP240072-OIA-Response.pdf](http://www.tepukenga.ac.nz/assets/OIA-Responses/August-2024/TP240072/TP240072-OIA-Response.pdf)  
[www.tepukenga.ac.nz/assets/OIA-Responses/August-2024/TP240072/Appendix-One.pdf](http://www.tepukenga.ac.nz/assets/OIA-Responses/August-2024/TP240072/Appendix-One.pdf)  
[www.tepukenga.ac.nz/assets/OIA-Responses/August-2024/TP240072/Appendix-Two.pdf](http://www.tepukenga.ac.nz/assets/OIA-Responses/August-2024/TP240072/Appendix-Two.pdf)  
[www.tepukenga.ac.nz/assets/OIA-Responses/August-2024/TP240072/Appendix-Three.pdf](http://www.tepukenga.ac.nz/assets/OIA-Responses/August-2024/TP240072/Appendix-Three.pdf)

- The status of Te Pūkenga work plan [noting this response was from early 2024] in light of change of direction for Vocational Education:  
[www.tepūkenga.ac.nz/assets/OIA-Responses/TP240008-OIA-Response-Redacted.pdf](http://www.tepūkenga.ac.nz/assets/OIA-Responses/TP240008-OIA-Response-Redacted.pdf)  
[www.tepūkenga.ac.nz/assets/OIA-Responses/TP240008-Appendix-One\\_Redacted.pdf](http://www.tepūkenga.ac.nz/assets/OIA-Responses/TP240008-Appendix-One_Redacted.pdf)

We will be publishing further OIA responses in the coming weeks that you may also find useful, so do keep checking the main page for updates: [www.tepūkenga.ac.nz/media](http://www.tepūkenga.ac.nz/media).

We also advise that our kaimahi are currently working through our responses to Te Pūkenga Annual Review questions for select committee, which are completed every year and published online via Parliament's website: [www.parliament.nz/en/pb/sc/submissions-and-advice/all](http://www.parliament.nz/en/pb/sc/submissions-and-advice/all). Again, while these responses may not cover the exact breakdown of information you are looking into, you may find it useful.

We appreciate that you are trying to gain an understanding of cost savings, including jobs and courses since January 2024 and anticipate where further jobs may be disestablished, courses discontinued, properties dispersed over the course of business division financial viability work. However, as this work is ongoing and will be carried out in consultation with kaimahi, alongside the disestablishment of Te Pūkenga, we are not in a position to outline the exact changes that will come to fruition during the course of 2025 and through our disestablishment.

██████████ is happy to engage with you to provide further background information. Please feel free to contact ██████████ directly, at ██████████

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](http://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



Gus Gilmore  
**Tumuaki** | Chief Executive