



Te Pūkenga

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31 July 2025

By email: [REDACTED]

Tēnā koe [REDACTED]

Request under the Official Information Act 1982

Thank you for your email of 15 July 2025, requesting the following information from Te Pūkenga – New Zealand Institute of Skills and Technology (Te Pūkenga):

... a copy of the latest business case for each of Te Pūkenga's [sic] divisions.

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

Interpretation

We have interpreted your request to be in relation to the Minister for Vocational Education, Hon Penny Simmonds, 14 July 2025 announcement: www.beehive.govt.nz/release/regional-governance-will-return-ten-polytechnics. In particular, to statements made during her live broadcast announcement and media questions that followed.

We must advise that we do not hold documents specifically titled 'Business Case' for each of our provider-based business divisions – former Institutes of Technology and Polytechnics (ITPs) – and therefore would have to refuse such a request under 18(g) as the information requested is not held by Te Pūkenga and, after consulting with the Tertiary Education Commission, we have no grounds for believing that the information is held by another department.

However, we believe the comments made by the Minister were in relation to the final recommended Financial Improvement Plans for the ITP business divisions, which Te Pūkenga Council considered in January 2025. These Plans provide an overview of individual ITP business divisions financial and forecast position and recommendations of how each ITP division could become a viable, stand-alone entity, or how it might minimise financial losses and operate as part of a federation or merger.

Therefore, we have re-interpreted your request to be for the reports for each ITP division and provide our decision on release of these Plans below.

The decision

We are currently undertaking a review of the reports and intend to make them publicly available (with certain information within them withheld) on our website in the coming weeks. As such, with reference to section 18(d) of the OIA, we are refusing your request as the information requested will soon be publicly available.

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 dark ink, appearing to read 'Gus Gilmore', with a large, stylized loop at the beginning.

Gus Gilmore

Tumuaki | Chief Executive