



Te Pūkenga

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8 March 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 minutes

Thank you for your email of 9 February 2024, requesting information from Te Pūkenga – New Zealand Institute of Skills and Technology (Te Pūkenga). In relation to written parliamentary question 101 (2024) you have requested:

.. any minutes or notes or records of any meetings between the Chief Executive (including any Acting Chief Executive) of Te Pūkenga [and the Minister for Tertiary Education and Skills], between 27 November 2023 and today (9 February 2024), whether or not any other people were also present at the meetings.

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

The decision

The former Te Pūkenga Chief Executive had a meeting with our new Minister for Tertiary Education and Skills, Hon Penny Simmonds, on 30 November 2023. Attendees at that 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.

There were no minutes or notes taken at the meeting by Te Pūkenga kaimahi (staff), therefore we must refuse your request with reliance on section 18(e) of the OIA as the information requested does not exist.

This was the only meeting between a Chief Executive (including Acting Chief Executives) of Te Pūkenga and the Minister for Tertiary Education and Skills, during the time period 27 November 2023 through to and including 9 February 2024.

For the sake of completeness, in relation to your request worded '*records of any meetings*', an email was sent by Peter Winder to all Te Pūkenga kaimahi via Ngā Taipitopito, our internal newsletter system, on 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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gus Gilmore', with a large, stylized initial 'G'.

Gus Gilmore
Tumuaki | Chief Executive