



Te Pūkenga

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

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

18 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

Thank you for your email of 19 February 2024, 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. ... please confirm the date on which Peter Winder took up the position of chief executive/acting chief exec and the date on which he ceased to hold that position.
2. Please disclose the value of redundancy pay or similar paid/owed to Mr Winder.
3. Please confirm the start and end dates for Stephen Town in the role of chief executive.
4. Please disclose the value of redundancy pay or similar paid to Mr Town.
5. It appears that Peter Winder took up the post of Acting chief executive in July 2022. In light of this, why is it reported (by the Public Service Commission) that in fiscal 22/23 Stephen Town earned \$251K as chief executive?
6. Please confirm the start and end dates for Christopher Collins in the job of interim chief executive.
7. Please provide me with the total redundancy cost Te Pūkenga footed related to the leadership team in each of the following years, please also provide the number of redundancies it related to in each year: 20/21, 21/22, 22/23 and 23/24. In the case of the current fiscal year, please also provide an estimate for additional redundancy costs expected by the end of June.
8. Finally, does the organisation currently have a chief executive or acting chief executive? If so, please provide their start date in the role and a related annualised salary.

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

The decision

Your questions and Te Pūkenga response are provided below.

Question One

1. ... please confirm the date on which Peter Winder took up the position of chief executive/acting chief exec and the date on which he ceased to hold that position.

Peter Winder was appointed Acting Chief Executive on 11 July 2022 and appointed Chief Executive on 9 December 2022. His appointment was for a fixed term until 30 June 2025, however his role as Chief Executive came to an end by reason of redundancy, with his last formal date with Te Pūkenga as 15 December 2023.

Question Two

2. Please disclose the value of redundancy pay or similar paid/owed to Mr Winder.

In accordance with Mr Winder's employment agreement, redundancy compensation was paid, the terms of which are confidential. The information requested has therefore been withheld under the following sections of the OIA:

- 9(2)(a) to protect the privacy of natural persons
- 9(2)(ba)(ii) to protect information which is subject to an obligation of confidence, where the making available of the information would be likely to otherwise damage the public interest.

We do not consider that there are other considerations which would render it desirable, in the public interest, to make the information available such that they outweigh these reasons for withholding that information.

Question Three

3. Please confirm the start and end dates for Stephen Town in the role of chief executive.

Stephen Town was Te Pūkenga inaugural Chief Executive from 6 July 2020 to 16 August 2022.

Question Four

4. Please disclose the value of redundancy pay or similar paid to Mr Town.

Stephen Town left Te Pūkenga as a result of a mediated confidential settlement agreement. The sum of \$195,075 (subject to tax) was paid to Mr Town under that agreement.

Question Five

5. *It appears that Peter Winder took up the post of Acting chief executive in July 2022. In light of this, why is it reported (by the Public Service Commission) that in fiscal 22/23 Stephen Town earned \$251K as chief executive?*

We note when referencing these figures through Te Kawa Mataaho Public Services Commission's website, it states that:

"Mr Town was on discretionary leave from 9 July 2022 and received 3 months payment in lieu of notice upon his resignation on 16 August 2022.

Part year from 6 July to 16 August 2022".

Question Six

6. *Please confirm the start and end dates for Christopher Collins in the job of interim chief executive.*

Chris Collins was Te Pūkenga Interim Chief Executive from 1 April 2020 to 5 July 2020.

Question Seven

7. *Please provide me with the total redundancy cost Te Pūkenga footed related to the leadership team in each of the following years, please also provide the number of redundancies it related to in each year: 20/21, 21/22, 22/23 and 23/24. In the case of the current fiscal year, please also provide an estimate for additional redundancy costs expected by the end of June.*

We have interpreted your reference to *leadership team* to be for the Executive Leadership Team (ELT) of Te Pūkenga during the period of inception in April 2020 to the date of your request. Te Pūkenga financial years align to calendar years, therefore we have considered your request in relation to calendar years.

The table below provides the total redundancy paid out for calendar years 2022 and 2023. As per question 2 above, Mr Winder's redundancy is not included in the table. There were no payments made within the other calendar years between April 2020 and 2024.

Providing the exact number of ELT members yields results of less than four. Therefore, we have withheld the exact numbers with reliance on section 9(2)(a) of the OIA, to protect the privacy of natural persons. We do not believe the need to withhold this information is outweighed by the public interest in its release.

Calendar year	Redundancy payment total	Number of ELT members
2022	\$273,250	<4
2023	\$87,500*	<4

*Please note that this 2023 figure relates to 2022 processes.

Te Pūkenga is not currently negotiating redundancies with any ELT members, and we are not able to provide an estimate of any additional redundancy costs expected for ELT.

Question Eight

8. *Finally, does the organisation currently have a chief executive or acting chief executive? If so, please provide their start date in the role and a related annualised salary.*

Yes, I was appointed Chief Executive on 19 February 2024. My appointment is for a fixed term, ending upon the formal disestablishment of Te Pūkenga, with an annual salary band of \$560,000 – \$590,000.

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, stylized initial 'G'.

Gus Gilmore
Tumuaki | Chief Executive