



3 June 2020

Kieran Gainsford
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Dear Kieran

Thank you for your email of 21 April 2020 requesting the following information under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

- *Any survey response data (including verbatim comments), received from the survey which was called "Review of Achievement Standards (RAS) - Pilot Phase: Science". I am specifically requesting the raw survey response data in full, subject to any relevant redactions for privacy reasons.*
- *Any analyses conducted, or reports, advice or summaries written up to and including the date this request is received, from responses to the survey which was called "Review of Achievement Standards (RAS) – Pilot Phase: Science". As an example from a previous consultation process of the nature of information I am requesting, I refer you to the documents produced by the Ministry relating to the Tomorrow's Schools Review Survey, namely the documents entitled "Tomorrow's Schools Review Quick Survey Detailed Analysis", "Tomorrow's Schools Review Detailed Survey Report", and "The Tomorrow's Schools Review 2019 Survey Report".*
- *Any submission data (including verbatim comments) and analyses thereof relating to formal submissions received by the Ministry relating to the feedback process for the Review of Achievement Standards pilot phase for Science. This should include raw submissions, subject to any appropriate redactions. As an example of the nature of the information I am requesting, I refer you to the documents produced by the Ministry relating to submissions received during the Tomorrow's School's Review process, namely "METIS 1071138 - Summary and Analysis of Submissions - Tomorrow's Schools Review 2018" and "Tomorrow's Schools Review - summary of submissions at 29 May 2019"*
- *Any reports or advice written up to and including the date this request is received relating to formal submissions received during the feedback process for the Review of Achievement Standards pilot phase for Science. As an example of the type of information I am requesting, I refer you to the document produced by the Ministry relating to the Tomorrow's Schools Review Survey, entitled "Summary of Submissions Report: Based on the Tomorrow's Schools Independent Taskforce Interim Report".*

Your request has been considered under the Act.

To provide some historical context to your request it is important to note that science was one of four trial and pilot subjects as part of the ministry's NCEA Change Package (May 2019) which aims to make our senior secondary qualification more robust, consistent, and accessible for all students. An important underpinning of the review is for NCEA Level 1 to become a broader, foundational qualification across a wide range of Learning Areas while Levels 2 and 3 become more specialised.

In response to the first part of your request, for the raw survey data in full, please find the information you have requested in the spreadsheet attached to this letter as **Appendix A**. The Science Trial and Pilots products were published for consultation on CitizenSpace on the Kōrero Mātauranga section of the Ministry's website accessible from 10 December 2019. Some information has been withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the Act, to protect the privacy of natural persons. This information includes verbatim submission data, answering the third part of your request, in part, as well.

We have identified three documents in scope of your requests for analyses, reports, advice and summaries relating to the survey and submissions (parts 2-4 of your request). Please find these documents attached as **Appendices B, C, and D**. I have prepared the following contextual information about these documents:

- In order to collate the responses for a scheduled Science Subject Expert Group (SEG) meeting, an interim report was produced on Tuesday February 13 2020 (**Appendix B**). As this interim report was produced before the close of consultation, it may not accurately reflect the final distribution of responses. The comments in red represent some initial observations noted by the Ministry Senior Advisor who facilitates the Science SEG.
- A compilation of CitizenSpace feedback was collated on 14 February 2020 (**Appendix D**) with a column of 'Things to Think About' to highlight to SEG members the recurring suggestions or themes to emerge from the engagement. This was deemed necessary due to the volume of feedback received.
- This compilation was then processed further into an easy-to-use discussion document (**Appendix C**) for the SEG to refer to in an upcoming Zoom meeting and to help inform them so they could prepare an appropriate response to the feedback. The SEG response is publicly available on Citizen Space at <https://consultation.education.govt.nz/ncea/sector-feedback-science/>.

The volume of feedback through the Trial & Pilots public engagement was considerable. The Ministry ensured that each SEG that was involved developing the products (including the Science SEG) had the opportunity to consider the feedback and revise their recommended approach. It is important to note that the Trial & Pilots initiative remains ongoing and is not yet complete. The Ministry welcomes all feedback and is committed to listening to the whole range of perspectives being expressed.

Please note that the engagement on the provisional subject list for NCEA Level 1 has been extended provisionally to 20 June. The Ministry has also met with SEGs to discuss the provisional list. Feedback we receive will be considered before final decisions are made on the Level 1 subjects. Once final, we are committed to proactively releasing the official information on the final decisions.

Thank you again for your email. If you have any further queries about this matter please direct these to enquiries.national@education.govt.nz. You also have the right to ask an Ombudsman to review our decision on your information request. You can do this by writing to info@ombudsman.parliament.nz or Office of the Ombudsman, PO Box 10152, Wellington 6143.

Yours sincerely



Ellen MacGregor-Reid
Deputy Secretary
Early Learning and Student Achievement