



Betty Munro
fyi-request-25084-66e94a89@requests.fyi.org.nz

29 JAN 2024

Dear Ms Munro

Official Information Request Reference MOIA 2023-0302

I refer to your official information request dated 8 December 2023 for

“As Minister for the Public Service, I note that Tertiary Education Minister, Penny Simmonds should have consulted with you on her intention to disestablish Te Pūkenga (as this could result in the establishment of a new organisation that might be a Crown entity, or that could involve the disestablishment or amalgamation of an existing Crown entity). The purpose of this consultation being to rightly ensure that any machinery of government implications are considered.

- *Under the OIA can I please receive any and all information held by you and your office as Minister for the Public Service that relates to this consultation, and any and all advice (information of any type and form, documents, recollections) provided to Minister Simmonds or anyone else about the impact of this proposal on the machinery of government.*
- *Further may I please request any and all information relating to Minister Simmonds' declaration of conflicts of interest in respect of her former role as Chief Executive of SIT (noting she was disestablished due to the reforms) and the intersection of this interest/bias with her current role as Minister for Tertiary Education”.*

Information not held

As the Minister for the Public Service, I am not required to be directly consulted on the intention to disestablish a Crown Entity. Therefore, I am refusing this part of your request under section 18(e) of the Official Information Act 1982 on the grounds the information requested does not exist.

In relation to Ministerial Conflicts of Interests, as the Minister for the Public Service I do not hold this information.

The Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet release this information on an annual basis, you can find it here: <https://www.dpmc.govt.nz/our-business-units/cabinet-office/ministers-and-their-portfolios/ministers-interests>. Parliament also releases a Register of Pecuniary and Other Specified Interests of Members of Parliament annually here: <https://www.parliament.nz/en/visit-and-learn/how-parliament-works/office-of-the-speaker/press-releases/2023-register-of-pecuniary-and-other-specified-interests-presented/>

Therefore, I am refusing this part of your request under section 18(d) of the OIA, that the information request is or will soon be publicly available.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this decision. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or freephone 0800 802 602.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Nicola Willis', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Hon Nicola Willis
Minister for the Public Service