



**Te Tāhuhu o
te Mātauranga**
Ministry of Education

Phillip Fry

fyi-request-33185-29fb0b0d@requests.fyi.org.nz

28 April 2026

Tēnā koe Phillip

OIA: GEMS-46227 – conflicts of interest and transparency in SMART procurement process

I refer to your email of 9 December 2025 to the Ministry of Education (the Ministry) requesting information under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) regarding the SMART procurement process.

On 3 March 2026, the Ministry provided you with a response to your request, reference number GEMS-46227.

As noted in that response, the final probity report for SMART had not been received by the Ministry at the date your request was submitted. The Ministry has now finalised consultations necessary to release this information to you.

Please find a copy of the SMART Probity Report attached as **Appendix A**. As advised in our response of 3 March 2026, some information has been withheld from the Probity Report under section 9(2)(a) of the Act, to protect the privacy of natural persons.

As required under section 9(1) of the Act, I have considered the public interest in releasing the information withheld. I do not consider that the public interest considerations favouring the release of this information are sufficient to outweigh the need to withhold it at this time.

Please note, we may publish this response on our website after five working days. Your name and contact details will be removed.

Thank you again for your email. You have the right to ask an Ombudsman to review my decision on your request, in accordance with section 28 of the Act. You can do this by writing to info@ombudsman.parliament.nz or to Office of the Ombudsman, PO Box 10152, Wellington 6143.

Nāku noa, nā



Chris Richards

Chief Advisor

Te Pou Rangatōpū | Corporate