



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

24/03/2026

Julian Jackson
fyi-request-33338-6d7d54d6@requests.fyi.org.nz

Tēnā koe Julian

OIA: GEMS-46719 – Early Childhood Education (ECE) Funding Review Ministerial Advisory Group (MAG)

Thank you for your email of 20 December 2025 to the Department of the Prime Minister and the Cabinet (DPMC) requesting the following information:

I am writing under the Official Information Act 1982 to request the following information regarding ministerial advisory groups established since the formation of the current coalition government (National, ACT, and New Zealand First) following the 2023 general election:

1. *A complete list of all ministerial advisory groups formed since 27 November 2023, including their official titles, responsible ministers, and terms of reference.*
2. *For each such group, please provide:*
 - a) *The total allocated budget (including any revisions) for the group's operations for the 2023/24 and 2024/25 financial years.*
 - b) *A breakdown and the totals of actual expenditures to date, including but not limited to: payments or honoraria to members, catering and venue costs, administrative or secretariat support, travel and accommodation, and any other operational expenses;*
 - c) *Copies of any Cabinet papers, funding approvals, or internal budgeting documents authorizing the group's financial resourcing.*

This request follows recent public reports indicating significant spending by some advisory groups—for example, nearly \$24,000 on catering for meetings of the Ministerial Advisory Group for victims of retail crime—and growing public interest in transparency around such expenditures

Wellington – National Office, PO Box 1666, Wellington 6140
Phone: +64 4 463 8000

[education.govt.nz](https://www.education.govt.nz)

As you are aware parts of your request as they relate to the Early Childhood Education Funding Review Ministerial Advisory Group were partially transferred to Minister Seymour's office on 2 February 2026 and subsequently transferred to the Ministry of Education on 4 February 2026.

Your request has been considered under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act).

I am refusing **part one** of your request, as the *ECE Funding Review MAG Terms of Reference* are publicly available at

[https://www.beehive.govt.nz/sites/default/files/2025-](https://www.beehive.govt.nz/sites/default/files/2025-06/ECE%20Funding%20Review%27s%20Terms%20of%20Reference.pdf)

[06/ECE%20Funding%20Review%27s%20Terms%20of%20Reference.pdf](https://www.beehive.govt.nz/sites/default/files/2025-06/ECE%20Funding%20Review%27s%20Terms%20of%20Reference.pdf). As such, I am refusing this part under section 18(d) of the Act.

The MAG did not begin their work until July 2025 and as such there was no budget allocated for the MAG in Financial Years (FY) 2023/24 and 2024/25. In response to **part 2a** of your request, please find the budget allocated for FY 2025/26, including formal revisions through the IPET process, at the below table.

	FY 2024/25	FY 2025/26
Budget	\$442,000	\$761,000
Revisions	(\$442,000 - transferred to the 2025/26 financial year)	\$442,000 - transferred from 2024/25 financial year
Total	\$0	\$1,203,000

In response to **part 2b** of your request, please see the below table for a breakdown of MAG costs in FY 2025/26 to the date of your request (4 Feb 2026).

Costs	FY 2024/25	FY 2025-26 YTD Actuals
Secretariat personnel (including overheads)	-	74,514
MAG member fees and incidentals	-	191,899.74
Facilitation costs	-	20,513
Travel and accommodation	-	33,004.26
Venue hire	-	11,315
Catering	-	5,152
Public consultation and engagement	-	51,340
Market research	-	35,350
Quality Assurance	-	18,370
Total	\$0	\$441,458

We have identified two documents in scope of **part 2c** of your request, noting the daily fees and remuneration of the MAG Chair and members. Those consist of the:

[education.govt.nz](https://www.education.govt.nz)

OIA: GEMS-46719

- *Cabinet Appointments and Honours Committee ECE Funding Review Ministerial Advisory Group appointments, and*
- *Cabinet Business Committee Appointment to the Early Childhood Education (ECE) funding review Ministerial Advisory Group (MAG).*

I am refusing this aspect of your request under section 18(d) of the Act, as above, because both documents are publicly available at the following links:

- <https://web-assets.education.govt.nz/s3fs-public/2026-03/Cab%20Pack%20-%20Appointment%20to%20the%20ECE%20MAG.pdf?VersionId=LKk31ASrC477BxfxzbEhOU.795cjRGE6>
- <https://web-assets.education.govt.nz/s3fs-public/2026-03/Cab%20Pack%20-%20ECE%20Funding%20Review%20MAG.pdf?VersionId=pldhCziBI7raVpOz2tjdjspZdQqfsWg6>

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



John Brooker
General Manager, System, Connections and Early Learning Policy
Te Pou Kaupapahere | Policy