



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

Julian Jackson

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15 April 2026

Tēnā koe Julian

OIA: GEMS-46748 – Ministerial Advisory Groups, their Terms or Reference, allocated budget, expenditures

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

As you are aware, your request has been partially transferred to relevant ministers. Because Minister Stanford holds the Education portfolio, your request was sent to her office on 2 February 2026 and subsequently transferred to the Ministry of

Education on 4 February 2026. This response is related to the following Ministerial Advisory Groups:

1. **Ministerial Advisory Group to review the English and Mathematics & Statistics learning areas for Years 0-10**
2. **School Property Ministerial Advisory Group**
3. **Māori Education Ministerial Advisory Group**

Your request has been considered under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act). I have structured this response to answer your questions per Ministerial Advisory Group.

Ministerial Advisory Group to review the English and Mathematics & Statistics learning areas for Years 0-10

The Terms of Reference for the Ministerial Advisory Group to review the English and Mathematics & Statistics learning area for Years 0-10 is published on the Ministry of Education website. As such, I am refusing **part one** of your request under section 18(d) of the Act, as the information requested is publicly available.

We have identified one document in scope of **part two** of your request: Cabinet paper *Ministerial Advisory Group to review the English, and Mathematics curricula for primary and intermediate*. This document is published on the Ministry of Education website. As such I am refusing this under section 18(d) of the Act, as above.

Please refer to **Document Table One** for links to the published information.

The above-mentioned Cabinet paper pertains to the establishment of the ministerial advisory group (MAG) and references remuneration. It also contains the initial Terms of Reference from 2023 which were superseded with the 2024 version (refer to part one). Note that some information is withheld under the following sections of the Act:

- 9(2)(a) to protect the privacy of natural persons, including that of deceased natural persons.
- 9(2)(ba)(i) to protect information which is subject to an obligation of confidence where making the information available would likely prejudice the supply of similar information.

In response to **part 2a** of your request, budget allocation is held at the overall programme level and cannot be identified at individual advisory or working group level. In addition, the MAG to review the English and Mathematics & Statistics learning area for Years 0-10 was disestablished in June 2024, therefore no budget allocation exists for the 2024/25 financial year.

In response to **part 2b** of your request, I can advise that the total spend for the 2023/24 financial year was **\$92,752.00** and for the 2024/25 financial year was **\$17,933.30**. As mentioned above, the MAG was disestablished in June 2024, as such the total spend in 2024/25 are payments made for costs incurred in the previous financial year.

School Property Ministerial Advisory Group

This MAG provides specialist independent advice to the Ministers for Education and Infrastructure on the set up of a new Crown Agency, New Zealand School Property Agency (NZSPA). The School Property Group plans, builds, and manages school properties to ensure they are safe, warm and dry. It is the second largest social property manager in New Zealand responsible for overseeing more than 2,100 primary and secondary state schools on 8,000 hectares of land with a value of \$33.5 billion.

The establishment of a new agency with these responsibilities is complex. The MAG and NZSPA Establishment Board have and are providing advice to Ministers, the Functional Chief Executive and the Secretary for Education with specific areas of focus including budget, investment and delivery initiatives.

There are two Terms of Reference, one for *the Ministerial Advisory Group (MAG) on School Property* that was established in March 2025 and one for the *Establishment Board* which replaced it in December 2025. I am releasing these to you as **Appendix A**.

I am further including two letters and an Education Report in the appendix as these contain information relevant to the Terms of Reference and are in scope of some aspects of **part two** of your request. Some information is withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the Act to protect the privacy of natural persons. Lastly, I am withholding in full the draft School Property MAG APH paper (annex 2.1) under section 9(2)(g)(i) of the Act to maintain the effective conduct of public affairs through the free and frank expression of opinions by or between or to Ministers of the Crown or members of an organisation or officers and employees of any public service agency or organisation in the course of their duty.

There was no allocated budget, as identified in **part 2a** of your request. The associated costs were expected to be met out of baselines.

You can see the expenditure breakdown you requested in **part 2b** of your request in the Tables One and Two below:

Table One: Ministerial Advisory Group on School Property

Item	Expenditure (ex GST)
Member payments and reimbursements	\$ 67,972
Travel & Accommodation	\$ 19,207
Catering and Venue Costs	\$ 5,866
Secretariat support	\$ 61,717**
Total Expenditure (ex GST)	\$ 154,762*

*The MAG was established in March 2025 and disestablished on 16 December 2025. Expenditure provided in the table above covers costs incurred in this timeframe. Minor estimation has been applied where appropriate due to the specific dates.

**One person is allocated to support the MAG, with dedicated secretariat responsibilities forming only a portion of their overall role. Secretariat functions include attendance at meetings; preparation of agendas, minutes and supporting material; coordination of meetings and travel arrangements for members; management of advice; and drafting reports.

Table Two: School Property Establishment Board

Item	Expenditure (ex GST)
Member payments and reimbursements	\$ 11,656
Travel & Accommodation	\$ 1,547
Catering and Venue Costs	\$ 0
Secretariat support	\$ 11,300**
Total Expenditure (ex GST)	\$ 24,503*

*The Establishment Board was established on 17 December 2025 and is expected to remain until the formal New Zealand School Property Agency (NZSPA) Board is appointed in the later part of 2026. Expenditure provided in the table above covers costs from 17 December 2025 until the date of request; 4 February 2026. Minor estimation has been applied where appropriate due to the specific dates.

**One person is allocated to support the MAG, with dedicated secretariat responsibilities forming only a portion of their overall role. Secretariat functions include attendance at meetings; preparation of agendas, minutes and supporting material; coordination of meetings and travel arrangements for members; management of advice; and drafting reports.

We identified two documents in scope of **part 2c** of your request that relate to the School Property Ministerial Advisory Group. I am releasing to you the Cabinet Appointments and Honours Committee Minute of Decision as **Appendix B** in full and refusing the Cabinet Paper under section 18(d) of the Act, as this is publicly available. Some information is withheld under section 9(2)(f)(iv) of the Act, to maintain the constitutional conventions for the time being which protect the confidentiality of advice tendered by Ministers of the Crown and officials. Please refer to **Document Table Two Appendix B**.

Māori Education Ministerial Advisory Group

Regarding **part one** of your request, I am releasing the Terms of Reference in full as **Appendix C**.

Regarding all aspects of **part two** of your request, I am partially releasing three documents as **Appendix D**, refer to **Document Table Three** for my decision on release.

The Cabinet paper approved an initial budget of \$0.090m over 2 years, however this was increased to \$0.150m per annum through the October Baseline Update in 2024, through a financially neutral adjustment. That adjustment is detailed in paras 35 - 38 of the submission that I am releasing to you as an extract (document 3 - extract) as permitted under section 16(1)(e) of the Act, where the information requested by any person is comprised in a document, that information may be made available by giving an excerpt or summary of the content.

I am also fully releasing a breakdown of financials (expenditures and budgets) in the table below. **The table: budget and expenditure for the Māori Education MAG for financial year FY 2024/2025 (1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025)**

Item	Expenditure (ex GST)
Member payments and reimbursements	\$ 37,263.53
External Service Providers	\$ 2,522.25
Travel	\$ 15,682.06
Accommodation and Meals	\$ 5,195.75
Catering and Venue Costs	\$ 1,535.73
Other operational Costs	\$ 1,100.00
Secretariat support	\$ 3,804.01
Total Expenditure (ex GST)	\$ 67,103.33
Total Budget FY24/25	\$ 150,000.00
Budget less expenditure at 30 June 2025	\$ 82,896.67

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



Lorraine Monahan
Manager, Ministerial Services
Te Pou Rangatōpū | Corporate

Document table One – MAG to review the English and Mathematics Curricula for Primary and Intermediate School Students

#	Date	METIS #	Title	Decision on release
1	Jan 2024		Terms of Reference *Redesigning the English and mathematics and statistics learning areas in the refreshed New Zealand Curriculum for Years 0 to 10: Ministerial Advisory Group	Refused. Information has been refused under section 18(d) of the Act. Information is publicly available at the following link: https://web-assets.education.govt.nz/s3fs-public/2025-09/Updated-Ministerial-Advisory-Group-Terms-of-Reference-January-2024-30-Jan.pdf?VersionId=H6x58mp0HFOXxiNsJrwYOh3ZTFvBB3SC
2	Dec 2023		Cabinet Paper: <i>Ministerial Advisory Group to review the English, and Mathematics curricula for primary and intermediate school students</i>	Refused. Information has been refused under section 18(d) of the Act. Information is publicly available at the following link: https://web-assets.education.govt.nz/s3fs-public/2026-03/3%20-%20MAG_Redacted%20_0.pdf?VersionId=b48HAAAKHN_u_EkDX.hhreYfaJPJalx7 with some information withheld under sections 9(2)(a) and 9(2)(ba)(i) of the Act.

*Note: the same as “*Ministerial Advisory Group to review the English, and Mathematics curricula for primary and intermediate school students*”

Document table Two – School Property MAG

#	Date	METIS #	Title	Decision on release
Appendix A				
1			Terms of Reference – School Property – MAG	Released in full.

#	Date	METIS #	Title	Decision on release
2	18 Feb 2025	1342878	Education Report: Updated APH paper for Ministerial Advisory Group on School Property	Released in part. Information is withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the Act
2.1	Annex 1: Draft: School Property MAG – APH Paper.docx			Withheld in full under 9(2)(g)(i) of the Act.
2.2	Annex 2: Letter from Minister of Education to Hon Judith Collins			Released in full.
3	Letter from Hon Chris Bishop to Hon Erica Stanford			Released in full.
4	Terms of Reference: NZ School Property Agency – Establishment Board			Released in full.
Appendix B				
1	30 June 2025		Cabinet Minute Decision - New Model for Managing the School Property Portfolio CAB-25-MIN-0219	Refused. Information refused under section 18(d) of the Act. https://web-assets.education.govt.nz/s3fs-public/2026-03/Updated%20Cab%20Pack%20-%20New%20Model%20for%20managing%20the%20SPP_Redacted.pdf?VersionId=z4rVqW_Lix51Ohl3KqNmBvPAH9xMC1KQ with some information withheld under section 9(2)(f)(iv) of the Act.
2	18 Dec 2025		APH Cabinet Appointments and Honours Committee APH-25-MIN-0291	Released in full.

Document table Three – Māori Education MAG

#	Date	METIS #	Title	Decision on release
Appendix C				
1	23 Oct 2024		Terms of Reference Ministerial Advisory Group	Released in full.
Appendix D				
1	27 Aug 2024	APH-24-MIN-0184	APH: Cabinet Appointments and Honours Committee Minute Decision APH-24-MIN-0184	Released in full.
2			Cabinet Paper: Māori Education Ministerial Advisory Group: Appointments and Terms of Reference	Released in full.
3	14 Oct 2024		2024 October Baseline Update Submission for Vote Education	Extract provided in full under section 16(1)(e) of the Act.