



Emma Williams

fyi-request-33582-8826db1e@requests.fyi.org.nz

16 April 2026

Tēnā koe Emma

OIA: GEMS-46590 – Cost of External Pedagogical Expertise & Ministerial Briefings on Curriculum Evidence

Thank you for your email of 22 January 2026 to the Ministry of Education (the Ministry), with part two clarified on 17 February 2026, requesting the following information:

1) *Cost of External Expertise (The "Generalist Tax")*

Please provide the total financial cost incurred by the Ministry for external consultants, contractors, and "Expert Advisory Groups" specifically engaged to provide advice on the following work programmes for the financial years 2023/24 and 2024/25 (year-to-date):

- The "Curriculum Refresh" (Te Mataiaho).*
- The implementation of "Structured Literacy" and the Year 0-2 teaching sequences.*
- The implementation of the new NCEA co-requisites.*

Please break these costs down by vendor/group name and total spend.

2) *Please provide a list of titles and dates of all aide-memoires, briefing notes, and education reports provided to the Minister of Education between 1 November 2023 and 30 May 2025 that relate to the following three specific topics:*

a) *Mathematics Curriculum Acceleration ("Make It Count"):*

- Any advice discussing the feasibility, risks, or implementation timeline for bringing the Mathematics and Statistics Years 0–8 curriculum rollout forward to Term 1, 2025.*
- Any advice relating to the procurement or selection of the "Ministry-funded maths resources" (e.g., Numicon, PR1ME) for the 2025 school year.*

b) *Structured Literacy Mandate:*

- Any advice provided to the Minister regarding the decision to mandate "structured literacy" approaches for all state schools from Term 1, 2025.*

- Any analysis of the "readiness" of the workforce to implement this mandate.
- c) Ministerial Advisory Group (MAG):
- Any advice regarding the establishment and Terms of Reference for the Ministerial Advisory Group focusing on English and Mathematics.
 - Any advice or briefing notes detailing the selection criteria or appointment process for the members of this MAG (specifically Dr Michael Johnston, Dr Audrey Tan, and Barbara Ala'alatoa).

Please note I am currently asking only for the list of document titles and dates to identify relevant documents. I may request full copies of specific documents from this list at a later stage.

3) Internal Education Up-Skilling

Please provide a list of all "Workshops", "Deep Dives", or "Strategy Sessions" held with the Minister of Education since their appointment that were specifically designed to explain pedagogical mechanics of the Common Practice Model or the updated Curriculum statements. Please include the duration of these sessions and whether external experts were paid to attend/present.

Your request has been considered under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) and renumbered for administrative ease.

Regarding **part one** of your request, I am refusing your request for specific costs of *external consultants, contractors and "Expert Advisory Groups"* under section 18(g) of the Act, as the information requested is not held by the Ministry in the way in which it has been requested, and I have no grounds for believing that it is either held by, or more closely related to the functions of, another department or organisation subject to the Act. Regarding the work underway to strengthen curriculum and assessment, it is not possible to extrapolate the specific costs as outlined in your request, as consultants, contractors or Expert Advisory Groups may complete work across a number of Ministry work programmes. Costs pertaining to the refresh of the New Zealand Curriculum, and implementation of the NCEA co-requisites are coded to the wider Curriculum and NCEA Change Programmes, and do not have separate cost centres aligned to your request.

Regarding **part two** of your request, please see the list of titles and dates at **Appendix A** below. Please note, no aides-memoire, briefing papers or education reports were provided to the Minister of Education in the specific time period regarding the Structured Literacy Mandate. I am therefore refusing this aspect of your request under section 18(e) of the Act as the document alleged to contain the information requested does not exist.

Where papers or briefing notes have already been proactively published on the Ministry website, a link to the published material is provided in the table below.

Regarding **part three** of your request, no "Workshops", "Deep Dives", or "Strategy Sessions" were held with the Minister of Education since her appointment that were specifically designed to explain pedagogical mechanics of the Common Practice Model or the updated Curriculum statements. I am therefore refusing **part three** of your request under section 18(e) of the Act, as above. However, you may be interested to know that a 'deep dive on curriculum' was held with the Minister of Education on 6 March 2024.

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

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Antony Harvey', with a long horizontal flourish underneath.

Antony Harvey
General Manager (acting)
Te Poutāhū | Curriculum Centre



Appendix A - Titles and dates of all aides-memoire, briefing notes, and education reports provided to the Minister of Education **between 1 November 2023 and 30 May 2025** that relate to the following three specific topics:

Topic	Date	Briefing type	Title
2) a) <i>Mathematics Curriculum Acceleration ("Make It Count")</i> <i>overarching documentation</i>	31/07/2024	Rapid Response	1333296 Draft PR for CIPS and maths timeline announcement 1333296 Minister's reactive Q&As (Sunday 4 August)
	1/08/2024	Rapid Response	1333409 – 1 Aug – 9:45am
	2/08/2024	Rapid Response	1333491 Further material for maths announcement
	7/08/2024	Rapid Response	1333693 Further to 1333491 Further material for maths announcement
	1/11/2024	Education Report	1339084 Delivering on maths action plan
	4/11/2024	Urgent fact check	URGENT fact check - 'PR Maths acceleration programme'
2) a) <i>Mathematics Curriculum Acceleration ("Make It Count")</i>	24/04/2024	Education Report	1327038 Timeline for the New Zealand Curriculum refresh. Available online at https://web-assets.education.govt.nz/s3fs-public/2024-08/ER-1327038-Timeline-for-the-New-Zealand-Curriculum-

Topic	Date	Briefing type	Title
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any advice discussing the feasibility, risks, or implementation timeline for bringing the Mathematics and Statistics Years 0–8 curriculum rollout forward to Term 1, 2025. 			refresh_Redacted.pdf?VersionId=o0ePHKpFbpSfX7oX56lnFebBLDCUg1a9
	29/07/2024	Education Report	1333214 Revised approach to curriculum timeline
	1/08/2024	Education Report	1333330 Draft Cabinet paper to support maths plan. Available online at https://web-assets.education.govt.nz/s3fs-public/2024-12/1333330%20Education%20Report.pdf?VersionId=UmsuWzqNtWmaRzpJkclXqdu8K4SXGpU0
	5/08/2024	Information update	1333531 Consultation approach for English, Te Reo Rangatira, and Mathematics and Statistics, and Pāngarau
	30/08/2024	Rapid Response	1335176 Support for new mathematics and statistics and English curriculum implementation
	5/09/2024	Education Report	1334189 Supporting implementation of the new curriculum and teaching practice expectations. Available online at https://web-assets.education.govt.nz/s3fs-public/2024-12/1334189%20-%20Supporting%20implementation%20of%20the%20new%20curriculum%20and%20teaching%20practice%20expectations_Redacted.pdf?VersionId=8928S_ulAZ7X_yeQ7iaXVvFphX2bZFg4

Topic	Date	Briefing type	Title
	15/10/2024	Education Report	1337540 Release of mathematics and statistics and Pāngarau Years 0-8 and English and Te Reo Rangatira Years 0-6
	30/10/2024	Education Report	1338535 Release of English and Te Reo Rangatira 0-6 and mathematics and statistics and Pāngarau 0-8. Available online at https://web-assets.education.govt.nz/s3fs-public/2025-01/1338535%20Release%20of%20Maths%20and%20Stats_Redacted.pdf?VersionId=Si8TaPrQe.aRPwu_7hFc8utVSZkB3.As
<p>2) a) <i>Mathematics Curriculum Acceleration ("Make It Count")</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any advice relating to the procurement or selection of the "Ministry-funded maths resources" (e.g., Numicon, PR1ME) for the 2025 school year. 	15/10/2024	Rapid Response	1338028 - Providers for maths resources and the products and services each of them will provide
<p>2) c) <i>Ministerial Advisory Group MAG)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any advice regarding the establishment and Terms of Reference for the Ministerial 	26/11/2023	Briefing Note	Progressing 100-day plan curriculum commitments
	27/11/2023	Education Report	1319060 Refresh of the New Zealand Curriculum and development of the common practice model
	4/12/2023	Education Report	1319732 Next steps in progressing 100-day plan commitments related to curriculum

Topic	Date	Briefing type	Title
<i>Advisory Group focusing on English and Mathematics</i>	6/12/2023	Briefing Note	Draft Cabinet papers for approval to lodge – progressing 100 day commitments for curriculum Available online at https://web-assets.education.govt.nz/s3fs-public/2024-11/4.-BN-1319508-Draft-Cabinet-papers-100-day-commitments-for-curriculum.pdf?VersionId=GJ0qpuRFt8WUvdtgNyKqrRj9sZFcV1vs
	30/01/2024	Education Report	1321255 Update to the scope and Terms of Reference for the Ministerial Advisory Group advising on English and mathematics and statistics Available online at https://web-assets.education.govt.nz/s3fs-public/2024-11/1321255-Update-to-the-scope-and-Terms-of-Reference-for-the-MAG.pdf?VersionId=uXUgKorvwEeYxA4b00FDtBxWn_dX175
2) c) <i>Ministerial Advisory Group MAG)</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Any advice or briefing notes detailing the selection criteria or appointment process for the members of this MAG (specifically Dr Michael Johnston, Dr Audrey Tan, and Barbara Ala'alatoa).</i> 	12/12/2023	Information Update	1320233 – Update on the Expert Group for English and Mathematics
	20/12/2023	Briefing note	1320440 - Appointments to the Ministerial Advisory Group to redesign the English and mathematics and statistics learning areas