



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

Claire

fyi-request-33950-cfa92ded@requests.fyi.org.nz

18 May 2026

Tēnā koe Claire

OIA: GEMS-47111 - Science curriculum conflict of interest and risk register

Thank you for your email of 4 March 2026 to the Ministry of Education (the Ministry) via the FYI website requesting the following information:

- 1) *I request all correspondence between Chris Duggan, or any other staff member or representative of the House of Science, and the Hon. Erica Stanford, Minister of Education, including correspondence conducted through the Minister's office, ministerial staff, private email accounts, or personal text or messaging services, for the period 1 January 2024 to 31 December 2025.*

This request includes but is not limited to:

- *Emails sent to or from any ministerial email address, the Minister's private email address, or ministerial staff acting on behalf of the Minister;*
- *Text messages or messages sent via any personal or professional messaging platform (including but not limited to iMessage, WhatsApp, or Signal);*
- *Any letters, briefing notes, or written communications passed through the Minister's office;*
- *Any responses or acknowledgements sent by the Minister or ministerial staff to House of Science staff.*

- 2) *Can I also ask for any emails outlining potential conflicts of interest for Chris Duggan and copies of risk registers related to the Science curriculum development work and her appointment to the curriculum writing team for Science in January 2025.*

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

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

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

Part one of your request was transferred to the Minister of Education (the Minister) under section 14(b)(i) of the Act as the information to which the request relates is not held by the Ministry but is believed to be held by the Minister.

Regarding **part two** of your request, Ms Duggan did declare a conflict of interest in her appointment disclosure form. Aotearoa is a small place so it's common for staff and contractors at the Ministry to have conflicts of interest. In the case of Ms Duggan, a conflict of interest was declared, and the Ministry has processes in place that support the consideration of conflicts raised and to manage them. I am releasing part of Ms Duggan's appointment disclosure form as an extract under section 16(1)(e) of the Act as **Appendix A**.

I am also releasing in part two emails relating to the conflict of interest declared by Chris Duggan. I am also releasing an extract from an email relating to the conflict of interest under section 16(1)(e) of the Act. These are attached as **Appendix B**. I am withholding the names and contact details of Ministry staff and contractors under section 9(2)(a) of the Act. In reaching this decision we have had particular regard to the potential for these individuals to receive unsolicited online attention arising from their involvement in these issues. I am also withholding one internal Ministry email address under section 9(2)(k) of the Act, to prevent the disclosure or use of official information for improper gain or improper advantage.

I am also withholding some information from those emails under 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. The information being withheld under section 9(2)(g)(i) does not relate to Ms Duggan's conflict of interest.

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.

The Ministry maintains a programme risk register for the overall delivery of the Curriculum and Assessment Change Programme. The register identifies and records risks and issues relating to matters such as programme scope, timeframes and dependencies, cost pressures, resourcing, quality, and engagement.

The risk register is used as an internal management tool to support the ongoing monitoring of programme delivery and to inform regular programme status reporting and decision-making, with mitigation actions and hygiene practices in place to support delivery.

There is no specific risk register for the science curriculum development work and Chris Duggan's appointment to the curriculum writing team for science in January 2025. I am therefore refusing the aspect of the request for *risk registers related to the Science curriculum development work and her appointment to the curriculum writing team for Science in January 2025* under section 18(e) of the Act as the information requested does not exist.

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



Antony Harvey
General Manager (Acting), Business Operations
Te Poutāhū | Curriculum Centre