



CMC

fyi-request-34013-1a073f95@requests.fyi.org.nz

8 May 2026

Tēnā koe CMC

OIA: GEMS-47183 – Updated process for generating the draft NZC curriculum

Thank you for your email of 10 March 2026 to the Ministry of Education (the Ministry) requesting the following information:

I request all education reports, briefings, ministerial advice, or other documents provided to the Minister of Education between 1 February 2025 and 31 October 2025 that:

- 1. advise the Minister of any new or revised process governing the development of the national curriculum (including any replacement of or departure from the process described in Education Report 1342593);*
- 2. set out updated timelines, milestones, or key dates associated with curriculum development;*
- 3. explain why, or confirm that, the position papers (Arts Curriculum and Science Curriculum, as disclosed under OIA reference 1354085) were not used in the generation of the draft curriculum material; and/or describe any alternative inputs, processes, or methodologies that replaced or supplemented the position paper process in the development of draft curriculum material.*

Your request has been considered under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), and numbered for the purposes of responding.

In line with the intent of your request, we have interpreted your request as seeking advice relating to changes to the processes and timelines of the New Zealand Curriculum Refresh as a whole, rather than to the content and/or timeframes relating to individual learning areas.

We have identified eight papers in scope of your request. My decision on the release of each document is outlined in the **Appendix A Document Table** below, and the documents being released to you are attached as **Appendix A**.

I am withholding some information under the following sections of the Act:

- 9(2)(a), to protect the privacy of natural persons
- 9(2)(f)(iv), to maintain the constitutional conventions for the time being which protect the confidentiality of advice tendered by Ministers of the Crown and officials
- 9(2)(g)(i), to maintain the effective conduct of public affairs through the free and frank expression of opinions by, 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.

Out-of-scope information has also been removed.

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 documents released in this OIA response include timelines and milestones that, in some instances, have been superseded as the curriculum development process has progressed. Given the iterative and evolving nature of this work, certain key actions may not have occurred exactly as originally described, with changes reflecting ongoing refinements, emerging priorities, and new information.

I am refusing some information under section 18(d) of the Act, as the information is already publicly available. Links to where this information can be found are included in the **Appendix A Document Table** below.

In addition to the papers outlined below, we have identified some papers where the main topic falls outside of the scope of your request, but that included reference to timelines that supersede those mentioned in the Education Report 1342593 specified in your request. In accordance with section 16(1)(e) of the Act, the relevant sections are summarised or extracted below:

- *Report: Draft Years 0-10 New Zealand Curriculum Learning areas for release* [METIS 1354051] seeks the Minister's agreement to release the draft New Zealand Curriculum framework, and learning areas, for Years 0-10 on 28 October 2025. The consultation release date supersedes that mentioned in METIS 1342593 referenced in your request. The report references that the draft Te Marautanga o Aotearoa framework and Years 0-10 wāhanga ako would be provided later than originally planned, reflecting the challenges of quality assuring and finalising content across the national curriculum. The report also noted the plan to release draft Years 11-13 curriculum subjects in Term 1, 2026, which has been superseded by the linked timeline here: tahurangi.education.govt.nz/senior-secondary-subjects-mar26.

- The report that you have mentioned in your request [METIS 1342593] contains a table outlining the external review groups the Ministry has engaged as part of the curriculum development process. Whilst we do not believe this is the intent of your request, we have identified an information update that provided the Minister with an updated description of the review groups' purpose. An extract of this update is included below for your information.

Table one: Review groups and their purpose

Review Groups	Purpose / Description
NZC Academic Review	<p>The Academic Review includes education specialists who will advise how well the curriculum aligns with the science of learning and our knowledge-rich criteria. This will assist in providing confidence that the curriculum is academically robust and future focused.</p> <p>A single Academic Review Group has been established with a focus across all learning areas through Phases 1 - 5.</p>
NZC Focus Groups	<p>NZC focus groups are made up of experienced educators and representatives of organisations from across the education sector, including teaching principals, middle leaders, and teachers.</p> <p>They bring practical classroom insights and professional expertise, to ensure that the NZC learning areas are usable and teachable in schools.</p> <p>At the secondary level (Phases 4-5), groups have been established comprising subject matter experts for each of the following learning areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health and Physical Education • Learning Languages • Social Sciences • Technology • The Arts. <p>At the primary level, a separate group has been established, focused on Phases 1-3.</p> <p>A separate group has also been established for the Science learning area across both the primary and secondary level with a focus on Phases 1-5.</p>
NZC Employer Review	<p>The Employer Review includes a diverse cross-section of business and industry leaders who bring real-world insight and professional expertise to the curriculum.</p> <p>They will help to inform the development of NZC learning areas that equip students with the knowledge, skills, and capabilities that employers and businesses value.</p> <p>Members may contribute feedback across multiple areas of the curriculum, while others may focus on specific fields aligned with their expertise.</p> <p>The Employer Review focuses on Phases 4-5.</p>
TMoA Academic Review Group Te Kāhui Ika ā-Whiro	<p>The Academic Review Group includes subject and education specialists who are well equipped to give us confidence the curriculum is academically robust, culturally grounded, and future focused.</p>

	A single Academic Review Group has been established with a focus across all wāhanga ako through Phases 1-5.
TMoA Sector Leader Focus Group Te Kāhui Iho Pūmanawa	Sector leader groups are made up of experienced educators and representatives of organisations from across the education sector, including teaching principals, principals, middle leaders, and teachers from both Kaupapa Māori education and Māori-medium education kura, schools, and settings. They bring practical classroom insights and professional expertise, from across the pathway and from diverse contexts (including rural, composite, iwi and Kaupapa Māori education specific) to the development of Te Marautanga o Aotearoa. Groups are focused on Phases 1-5.
TMoA Kaumātua Focus Group Te Kāhui Kaumātua	The Kumātua Focus Group comprises respected elders and leaders from iwi, hapū, and communities across Aotearoa. Dedicated, and experienced in education and mātauranga Māori, they bring invaluable wisdom and intergenerational knowledge to guide the development of Te Marautanga o Aotearoa. Their role ensures the authentic integration of Māori worldviews, values, and knowledge systems throughout Te Marautanga o Aotearoa. The group is focused on Phases 1-5.
TMoA Employer Review Group Te Kāhui Whai Rawa	The Employer Review Group includes a diverse range of business and industry leaders who bring real-world insight and professional expertise to the curriculum. Representing sectors that actively support Māori education, they will provide perspectives to enable Te Marautanga o Aotearoa to reflect the knowledge, skills, understanding and dispositions needed to be a positive contributor to Māori economic growth and business enterprise. The group is focused on Phases 1-5.

In relation to part three of your request, and as advised in the earlier OIA response referenced in your request, the Arts and Science position papers were developed during the early stages of designing the Arts and Science curriculum to inform these learning areas. After changes to the curriculum development approach, the papers were not progressed or approved.

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



Antony Harvey
Acting Deputy Secretary | Hautū Taupua
Te Poutāhū | Curriculum Centre

Appendix A Document Table

#	Date	Reference	Title	Decision on release
1	11/02/25	1342593	Report: Curriculum development timelines and Position Paper templates	Refused under section 18(d) of the Act. Some information withheld under sections 9(2)(a) and 9(2)(f)(iv) of the Act. https://web-assets.education.govt.nz/s3fs-public/2025-03/ER%201342593%20-%20Redacted_0.pdf?VersionId=_hCoWo6MDO96NBnyrWXdEqCrGYoGGxeG
2.	21/02/2025	1343366	Information update: Timeline of advice for curriculum and NCEA	Released in part. Some information withheld under sections 9(2)(a) and 9(2)(f)(iv) of the Act, out of scope information removed.
3.	14/03/25	1344254	Report: revised curriculum development timelines and approach	Released in part. Some information withheld under sections 9(2)(a) and 9(2)(f)(iv) of the Act.
4.	17/04/2025	1346356	Information Update: Timeline of advice for curriculum and NCEA	Released in part. Some information withheld under section 9(2)(a) and 9(2)(f)(iv) of the Act, out of scope information removed.
5.	06/05/2025	1347171	Information update: National curriculum development timeline	Released in part. Some information withheld under sections 9(2)(a) and 9(2)(f)(iv) of the Act.

#	Date	Reference	Title	Decision on release
6.	22/05/2025	1348066	Information update: Timeline of advice for curriculum and NCEA	Released in part. Some information withheld under sections 9(2)(a) and 9(2)(f)(iv) of the Act, out of scope information removed.
7	17/06/25	1348765	Report: Curriculum and NCEA implementation timeline	Refused under section 18(d) of the Act. Some information withheld under sections 9(2)(a) and 9(2)(f)(iv) of the Act. https://web-assets.education.govt.nz/s3fs-public/2025-10/1348675%20-%20Cirriculum%20and%20NCEA%20implementation%20timeline_Redacted.pdf?VersionId=_4KQKct6ZEznDm66arVJQY9hsrspK2KN
8.	30/07/2025	1351042	Report: Approach to National Curriculum Consultation	Released in part. Some information withheld under sections 9(2)(a), 9(2)(f)(iv) and 9(2)(g)(i) of the Act.