



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

Phillip Fry

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20 May 2026

Tēnā koe Phillip

### **OIA: GEMS-47473 Primary School Progress Descriptors**

Thank you for your email of 29 March 2026 to the Ministry of Education (the Ministry) requesting the following information:

*Under the Official Information Act 1982, I request copies of all briefings, reports, or formal advice provided to the Minister of Education or senior Ministry officials since January 2024 regarding the development and implementation of the five-point Progress Descriptors for primary school reporting.*

*Specifically, I am seeking documents describing:*

- *the rationale for the move to this specific five-point scale;*
- *alternative reporting frameworks or "common components" that were considered but not adopted;*
- *the reasons for selecting the current descriptors over previous models; and*
- *any identified impacts, risks, or benefits for teachers, schools, and families.*

*This request is limited to formal documents relied upon for decision-making and does not seek informal correspondence or raw draft material. I would prefer to receive these documents in a searchable electronic format.*

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

We have identified eight documents in scope of your request for advice provided to the Minister of Education. I am refusing this part of your request under section 18(d) of the Act, as the information requested is, or will soon be, publicly available.

Please refer to the **Document Table** below for a list of these documents, along with links to where each paper has, or will soon be, published.

Please note some information has been withheld from the publicly available documents 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 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.

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.

We have interpreted the part of your request that relates to advice to “senior Ministry officials” to be for advice provided to the Ministry’s senior leadership team. The make-up of our senior leadership team can be found on our website at:

[www.education.govt.nz/our-work/our-role-and-our-people/our-leadership-team](http://www.education.govt.nz/our-work/our-role-and-our-people/our-leadership-team)

No formal advice on this topic was provided to the senior leadership team, so I am refusing this part of your request under section 18(e) of the Act, as the document alleged to contain the information requested does not exist or, despite reasonable efforts to locate it, cannot be found.

Thank you also for your email of 29 April asking about the nature of the consultations required to respond to this request. The Ministry consulted with the Minister of Education’s Office, as per the protocol when a Minister of the Crown has a legitimate interest in information requested under the Act.

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](mailto:info@ombudsman.parliament.nz) or to Office of the Ombudsman, PO Box 10152, Wellington 6143.

Nāku noa, nā



Giles Panting  
General Manager, Curriculum Integration Services  
**Te Poutāhū | Curriculum Centre**

## Document Table

#	Date	Reference	Title	Decision on release
1	13 May 2024	1327456	Approach to twice yearly standardised testing and common reporting	<b>Refused.</b> Information refused under section 18(d) of the Act. A copy of the report can be found here: <a href="https://web-assets.education.govt.nz/s3fs-public/2024-10/1327456-Approach-to-twice-yearly-standardised-testing-and-common-reporting_Redacted.pdf?VersionId=ENsidWufqbACNrThCvk.pRI2feDaycRg">https://web-assets.education.govt.nz/s3fs-public/2024-10/1327456-Approach-to-twice-yearly-standardised-testing-and-common-reporting_Redacted.pdf?VersionId=ENsidWufqbACNrThCvk.pRI2feDaycRg</a> , with some information withheld under sections 9(2)(a), 9(2)(f)(iv) and 9(2)(g)(i) of the Act.
2	24 June 2024	CAB-24-MIN-0216	Cabinet paper: Implementing Regular and Consistent Assessment and Reporting of Student Progress and Achievement	<b>Refused.</b> Information refused under section 18(d) of the Act. A copy of the report can be found here: <a href="https://web-assets.education.govt.nz/s3fs-public/2025-01/CAB-24-MIN-0216_Redacted.pdf?VersionId=RH7RGYW6eBFZB5E_ospJ5gXp8Ny6khcE">https://web-assets.education.govt.nz/s3fs-public/2025-01/CAB-24-MIN-0216_Redacted.pdf?VersionId=RH7RGYW6eBFZB5E_ospJ5gXp8Ny6khcE</a> , with some information withheld under section 9(2)(f)(iv) of the Act.

#	Date	Reference	Title	Decision on release
3	27 Nov 2024	1338902	Report: Assessment, aromatawai and reporting	<b>Refused.</b> Information refused under section 18(d) of the Act. A copy of the report can be found here: <a href="https://web-assets.education.govt.nz/s3fs-public/2025-11/1338902%20Assessment%20Aromatawai%20and%20reporting_Redacted.pdf?VersionId=_QARaVjr_g76bXGD6LB.ivxMDby_MaQL">https://web-assets.education.govt.nz/s3fs-public/2025-11/1338902%20Assessment%20Aromatawai%20and%20reporting_Redacted.pdf?VersionId=_QARaVjr_g76bXGD6LB.ivxMDby_MaQL</a> with some information withheld under sections 9(2)(a) and 9(2)(g)(i) of the Act.
4	15 Apr 2025	1345871	Report: Approach to legislating for curriculum, assessment, and reporting to parents	<b>Refused.</b> Information refused in full under section 18(d) of the Act. A copy of the report can be found here: <a href="https://web-assets.education.govt.nz/s3fs-public/2026-01/7.%20ER%201345871%20%28Signed%29%20Approach%20to%20legislating%20for%20curriculum_Redacted.pdf?VersionId=CdcJ4R899sCfVjPQzHp7sGfNgJDnUCib">https://web-assets.education.govt.nz/s3fs-public/2026-01/7.%20ER%201345871%20%28Signed%29%20Approach%20to%20legislating%20for%20curriculum_Redacted.pdf?VersionId=CdcJ4R899sCfVjPQzHp7sGfNgJDnUCib</a> with some information withheld under sections 9(2)(a) and 9(2)(f)(iv) of the Act.

#	Date	Reference	Title	Decision on release
5	17 Apr 2025	1346292	Report: Reporting to Parents progress descriptors.	<b>Refused.</b> Information refused under section 18(d) of the Act. A copy of the report will be published on the Ministry's website shortly at <a href="https://www.education.govt.nz/our-work/information-releases/advice-seen-our-ministers">https://www.education.govt.nz/our-work/information-releases/advice-seen-our-ministers</a> with some information withheld under sections 9(2)(a)
6	14 May 2025	1345582	Report: Direction for drafting of assessment and aromatawai requirements	<b>Refused.</b> Information refused in full under section 18(d) of the Act. A copy of the report can be found here: <a href="https://web-assets.education.govt.nz/s3fs-public/2026-03/R%201345582%20-%20Direction%20for%20drafting%20of%20assessment%20and%20aromatawai%20requirements_Redacted.pdf?VersionId=QUmV_xaQgf8TQO85wAsSNiSBYmmnN1hD">https://web-assets.education.govt.nz/s3fs-public/2026-03/R%201345582%20-%20Direction%20for%20drafting%20of%20assessment%20and%20aromatawai%20requirements_Redacted.pdf?VersionId=QUmV_xaQgf8TQO85wAsSNiSBYmmnN1hD</a> with some information withheld under sections 9(2)(a), 9(2)(f)(iv) and 9(2)(g)(i) of the Act.
7	27 Aug 2025	1351280	Report: Draft foundation curriculum policy statements for assessment and aromatawai requirements	<b>Refused.</b> Information refused under section 18(d) of the Act. A copy of the report will be published on the Ministry's website shortly at <a href="https://www.education.govt.nz/our-work/information-releases/advice-seen-our-ministers">https://www.education.govt.nz/our-work/information-releases/advice-seen-our-ministers</a>

#	Date	Reference	Title	Decision on release
8	10 Oct 2025	1354023	Report: Release of finalised Years 0-10 English, Te Reo Rangatira, Mathematics and Statistics, and Pāngarau	<b>Refused.</b> Information refused under section 18(d) of the Act. A copy of the report will be published on the Ministry's website shortly at <a href="https://www.education.govt.nz/our-work/information-releases/advice-seen-our-ministers">https://www.education.govt.nz/our-work/information-releases/advice-seen-our-ministers</a>