



Te Tāhuhu o
te Mātauranga
Ministry of Education

CMC

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3 July 2026

Tēnā koe CMC

OIA: GEMS-48523 – Follow-up request to GEMS-47587

Thank you for your email of 6 June 2026 to the Ministry of Education (the Ministry) requesting the following information:

1. *Please provide the full text of the "agreed design principles and Ministry design criteria" against which consultation feedback is assessed when determining whether it warrants a change to the curriculum documents (as referenced in the response to question 5).*
2. *Please confirm whether the final curriculum documents will be published before or after the independent reviewer's report is made publicly available.*
3. *Please provide the name or organisational identity of the independent reviewer.*

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

In response to **part one** of your request, *Education Report: Design for the New Zealand Curriculum change programme*, dated 12 April 2024, sets out the design for the New Zealand Curriculum change programme. I am releasing this in part as **Appendix A**, with some information withheld under the following sections of the Act:

9(2)(a) to protect the privacy of natural persons.

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.

The following documents have also been identified in scope of your request and are publicly available:

- Cabinet paper, *Establishing a knowledge-rich national curriculum grounded in the science of learning*, which sets out the overarching design principles: https://web-assets.education.govt.nz/s3fs-public/2024-08/21-Establishing-a-knowledge-rich-curriculum_Redacted.pdf?VersionId=jEbZxxpGmLn9ka23i4exehjJMzzjsu7o
- Education Report: Timeline and Design for *Te Marautanga o Aotearoa* rewrite (METIS No: 1327587): https://web-assets.education.govt.nz/s3fs-public/2024-08/ER-1327587_Redacted.pdf?VersionId=gQpJSenV8d0gAVvNsL3ufgrdvCAqnwrb

The New Zealand Curriculum is designed to deliver equitable and excellent outcomes for all New Zealand children (including ākonga Māori, Pacific students and those with learning support needs), by providing the same high standard curriculum content to every teacher and student, regardless of where they live. This approach reduces variability, supporting those who are currently underserved by our education system.

The National Curriculum is to be a clear statement of what we deem important in education in New Zealand, reflecting the social, cultural and historical context of New Zealand and:

1. Underpinned by the Science of Learning
2. Knowledge-rich
3. Inclusive of evidence-informed teaching practices
4. Clear and easy to use
5. Internationally comparable
6. Supportive of the development of key competencies
7. Supportive of kura and Māori-medium settings to deliver on their designated or special character (Te Marautanga o Aotearoa only).

For Te Marautanga o Aotearoa and New Zealand Curriculum, there are 11 quality criteria used to support writing and quality assurance of the National Curriculum, which are listed below:

1. Clear and detailed content that makes it explicit what content is to be taught and assessed
2. Rigorous with high expectations
3. Prioritises disciplinary knowledge and skills, embedding 'know how' in 'know that'
4. Well-sequenced within each learning area and discipline
5. Well-sequenced across learning areas and disciplines

6. Supports long-term memory acquisition and effective, research-based pedagogy
7. Comprehensive and well-rounded with sufficient focus on each discipline/subject
8. Equitable and inclusive – representative with different perspectives
9. Teachable
10. Clear reading and writing requirements
11. Consistently implemented for all students within and across schools.

Regarding **part two** of your request, the release date for the Independent Reviewer's Report is yet to be confirmed.

In response to **part three** of your request, I can confirm that Evaluation Associates are conducting the independent review.

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
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Te Poutāhū | Curriculum Centre