



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

Aaron

fyi-request-34608-9c2d25ea@requests.fyi.org.nz

1 July 2026

Tēnā koe Aaron

OIA: GEMS-47981 – Individual Ministry of Education staff member and Conflicts of Interest

Thank you for your email of 5 May 2026 to the Ministry of Education (the Ministry) requesting the following information concerning Rowan Brickell in her capacity as Acting General Manager, Te Uepū Reo Māori:

Specifically, I request the following information for the period of March 2025 to the date of this request:

- 1. Interests register: Copies of all entries in the organisation's Interests Register relating to Rowan Brickell, including any annual or ad hoc declarations;*
- 2. Secondary Interests: Copies of any applications for, and approvals of, secondary employment, or private consultancy work held by Rowan Brickell;*
- 3. Specific Disclosures: Any written disclosures made by Rowan Brickell regarding conflicts of interest (actual, potential or perceived), including any with relation to Kia Ata Mai Educational Trust and Te Hua Kawariki;*
- 4. Management Plans: Any Conflict of Interest Management Plans or Risk Mitigation Strategies put into place to manage identified interests for Rowan Brickell, including that of Kia Ata Mai, where I understand her sister Cath Rau is the Director;*
- 5. Recusals: Any records (including meeting minutes or file notes) indicating instances where Rowan Brickell recused herself from discussions or decision-making due to a declared interest;*
- 6. Gifts and Hospitality: A copy of all entries in the Gifts and Hospitality Register associated with Rowan Brickell;*
- 7. Conversations: Any conversations where Rowan Brickell has been mentioned or involved relating to any Ministry work and Kia Ata Mai or Te Hua*

Kawariki, including any conversations or correspondence between the Ministry of Education and the Minister of Education's Office.

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

Regarding **parts one to four** and **part seven** of your request, as the staff member in question was in the role in a temporary manner, the information requested is of a personal nature, and it is in the public interest that staff are able to disclose this information in a confidential manner, I am refusing these parts of your request under section 18(a), since, by virtue of the following sections of the Act, there is good reason for withholding the information in full:

- 9(2)(a) - to protect the privacy of natural persons
- 9(2)(ba)(ii) – to protect information which is subject to an obligation of confidence or which any person has been or could be compelled to provide under the authority of any enactment, where the making available of the information would be likely otherwise to damage the public 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.

Regarding **part five** of your request, no information concerning any recusals by Rowan Brickell from meetings has been found. I am therefore refusing this information under section 18(e) of the Act, as the information requested does not exist.

Regarding **part six** of your request, the Ministry discloses all gifts received by Ministry officials during the Annual Review process. The gifts register lists roles of officials who received gifts and does not note names. We do note that there were no gifts recorded as being received by the General Manager of Te Uepū Reo Māori during the period where Rowan Brickell was Acting General Manager, as of 26 June 2026. The Ministry's Responses to Written Questions during the Annual Review process can be found on the Parliamentary website at the following link:

<https://www3.parliament.nz/en/pb/sc/submissions-and-advice/all>

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 extending to the right.

Antony Harvey

General Manager

Te Poutāhū | Curriculum Centre