



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

CMC

fyi-request-34630-9b9cedxx@xxxxxxxxx.xxx.xxx.xx

3 July 2026

Tēnā koe CMC

OIA: GEMS-48013 – Correspondence relating to SMART data use

Thank you for your email of 7 May 2026 to the Ministry of Education (the Ministry) requesting the following information:

"I am writing to make a request under the Official Information Act 1982 for internal communications relating to the Student Monitoring, Assessment and Reporting Tool (SMART). This request is limited to communications created between 1 September 2025 and the date of this request. Information Requested I request the following categories of information:

1. *Ministerial communications All emails, briefing notes, meeting notes and written communications between Ministry staff and the Minister of Education or the Minister's office that discuss any of the following in relation to SMART:*
 - a. *The use of SMART data for any purpose*
 - b. *The extension of SMART to Years 9 and 10 School performance reporting using SMART data*
2. *Internal Ministry communications All emails and written communications between Ministry staff at senior leadership level — including Deputy Secretaries, General Managers and their direct reports — that discuss any of the following in relation to SMART:*
 - a. *The use of SMART data*
 - b. *Requests from other government agencies for access to SMART data*
 - c. *Any proposal to share SMART data with any other government agency or third party*
 - d. *The extension of SMART to Years 9 and 10*
3. *Communications with Janison All emails and written communications between Ministry staff and Janison Solutions Pty Ltd that discuss any of the following:*
 - a. *The use of New Zealand student data by Janison for any purpose AI marking and the data used to support it*

1. Ministerial communications All emails, briefing notes, meeting notes and written communications between Ministry staff and the Minister of Education or the Minister's office that discuss any of the following in relation to SMART:

We have interpreted **part 1a** of your request to mean all official ministerial communications, including all emails, official briefing notes, meeting notes and written communications between the Ministry and the Minister of Education (the Minister) or the Minister's office that discuss the use of Student Monitoring, Assessment and Reporting Tool (SMART) data (*between 1 September 2025 and 7 May 2026*).

I am refusing one document under section 18(d) of the Act, as it is publicly available at the link provided in the Document Table below. Note that some information has been withheld from the published document under the following sections of the Act:

- I am withholding the third document in full under section 9(2)(f)(iv) of the Act, as above.

education.govt.nz

In accordance with section 16(1)(e) of the Act, I am also releasing as **Appendix B** the relevant excerpts from communications between Ministry staff and the Minister, or the Minister's Office, that discuss the use of SMART data. Some information has been removed as out of scope from the excerpts taken from the Cabinet Paper- *Progress on curriculum, assessment and aromatawai changes*.

b. The extension of SMART to Years 9 and 10 School performance reporting using SMART data

There was no extension made to expand to Years 9 and 10 using SMART, so I am refusing **part 1b** of your request under section 18(e) of the Act, as the information does not exist.

The Ministry developed a Single Stage Business Case to procure a long-term solution to enable the creation of trusted data about student progress and achievement for years 1-10. On 17 February 2025, Cabinet approved the Business Case, SMART is the product that is currently being delivered as a result.

Please refer to page 15 – Single Stage Business Case – the Standardised tool for assessment and aromatawai, and page 31, which details the proposal here: https://web-assets.education.govt.nz/s3fs-public/2026-03/Cabinet%20Pack%20-%20Establishing%20a%20new%20standardised%20tool_Redacted_0.pdf?VersionId=h4gLPqajurvR8Cjn1c0RZxcJN3VJHYg6.

2. Internal Ministry communications All emails and written communications between Ministry staff at senior leadership level — including Deputy Secretaries, General Managers and their direct reports — that discuss any of the following in relation to SMART:

a. The use of SMART data

Ministry staff at senior leader level have regularly communicated with direct reports in the course of their duties regarding SMART. An initial email search for the period between 1 September 2025 and 7 May 2026 produced thousands of results. I am therefore refusing **part 2a** of your request under section 18(f) of the Act, as the information requested cannot be made available without substantial collation or research.

We have considered whether inviting you to clarify or fixing a charge for this part of the request would enable this to be granted as required by sections 18A and 18B of the Act. However, after careful consideration, we have concluded that it is difficult to conceive of a way to search our record-keeping systems that would make this task feasible and responding to the request would impact on our staff's ability to carry out other operations.

b. Requests from other government agencies for access to SMART data

c. Any proposal to share SMART data with any other government agency or third party

No requests or proposals have been made to share SMART data with other government agencies or third parties. Therefore, **parts 2b** and **2c** of your request are refused under section 18(e) of the Act, as above.

We note that the Ministry is the kaitiaki (guardian/steward) of the SMART system and the data within it.

For further information, please see the SMART FAQs and Privacy Statements for students, parents and whānau here:

<https://newzealandcurriculum.tahurangi.education.govt.nz/smart-overview-and-access/5637300577.p?activeTab=tab:3>

d. The extension of SMART to Years 9 and 10

In response to **part 2d** of your request, please refer to the response to **part 1b** above.

3. Communications with Janison All emails and written communications between Ministry staff and Janison Solutions Pty Ltd that discuss any of the following:

a. The use of New Zealand student data by Janison for any purpose AI marking and the data used to support it

In response to **part 3a** of your request, attempting to locate and collate all emails and written communication between Ministry staff and Janison Solutions Pty Ltd in relation to the use of SMART data over this timeframe would be a significant administrative exercise to undertake and would detract from the team's ability to carry out its core functions. The information requested in this part of your request is not held in a way that allows for easy retrieval by subject and identifying, assessing and collating all relevant material would require a substantial manual search across a very large volume of records identified. I am therefore refusing this part of your request under section 18(f) of the Ac, as above.

We have also considered whether inviting you to clarify or fixing a charge for this part of the request would enable this to be granted as required by sections 18A and 18B of the Act. However, as noted above, there is no clear path to searching our record-keeping systems for this information and responding to the request would impact on our staff's ability to carry out other operations.

b. The extension of SMART to Years 9 and 10

In response to **part 3b** of your request, please refer to our response to **part 1b** above.

4. Ministerial briefings All briefing papers and ministerial briefings prepared between 1 September 2025 and the date of this request that discuss SMART,

a. its data

We have interpreted **part 4a** of your request as meaning all official briefing papers provided to the Minister's office that discuss the use of SMART data (*between 1 September 2025 and 7 May 2026*). All relevant information has been provided in response to **part 1a** above.

b. its expansion

In response to **part 4b** of your request, please refer to **part 1b** above.

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.

Thank you again for your email. If you have further questions, please feel free to contact our media team in the first instance at media.team@education.govt.nz.

Nāku noa, nā

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Antony Harvey', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the left.

Antony Harvey

Acting General Manager, Business Operations

Te Poutāhū | Curriculum Centre

Document Table

#	Date	Reference	Title	Decision on release
1	27 August 2025 (Partially released as it's so close to 1 September 2026)	1351280	Report: Draft foundation curriculum policy statements for assessment and aromatawai requirements	Released in part. Some information withheld under sections 9(2)(a), 9(2)(f)(iv) and out of scope material.
2	28 November 2025	1354601	Report: Assessment and Reporting Tool (SMART) Assessments	Refused under section 18(d) of the Act, publicly available here: https://web-assets.education.govt.nz/s3fs-public/2026-03/R%201354601%20-%20Assessment%20and%20Reporting%20Tool%20%28SMART%29%20Assessments_Redacted.pdf?VersionId=zSrg4fzU1fzpet7Z9jPh8MxSCpzzwdpl
3	16 March 2026	1354948	Report: Progress and Achievement data	Withheld in full. Information withheld in full under section 9(2)(f)(iv) of the Act.
4	28 May 2026 12 November 2025		Excerpts specifically discussing the use of SMART data Excerpts from, Cabinet Paper: Progress on curriculum, assessment and aromatawai changes	Released excerpts in accordance with section 16(1)(e) of the Act

Additional proactively released information in relation to SMART, for your information only (not in scope of your request):

- https://web-assets.education.govt.nz/s3fs-public/2026-03/Cabinet%20Pack%20-%20Establishing%20a%20new%20standardised%20tool_Redacted_0.pdf?VersionId=h4gLPqajurvR8Cjn1c0RZxcJN3VJHYg6
- https://web-assets.education.govt.nz/s3fs-public/2026-03/R%201319270%20-%20Progressing%20commitments%20related%20to%20assessment%20and%20aromatawai_Redacted.pdf?VersionId=PrZ2qlSzWPuylrZWvqSTtkD2WbZlnIRI
- https://web-assets.education.govt.nz/s3fs-public/2026-03/R%201335088%20-%20Twice%20yearly%20assessment%20of%20year%203%20to%208%20students_phase%201_Redacted.pdf?VersionId=EsJK109_WytUn9hZSDr9N0EZJxuc0uuq
- https://web-assets.education.govt.nz/s3fs-public/2026-03/R%201340920%20Assessment%20and%20Aromatawai%20standardised%20tool%20business%20case_Redacted.pdf?VersionId=tHTICnL0C5U.vvF0iMcCusQ4WVjypwlr
- https://web-assets.education.govt.nz/s3fs-public/2026-03/R%201341740%20-%20Draft%20A%26A%20Cabinet%20paper_Redacted.pdf?VersionId=qLZngVW5ytzKDMZSJAK.bqrO3o5.3elG
- 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