



8 June 2026

Ref: DOIA-REQ-0032852

Mr ED Hirsche

Email: fyi-request-34675-78d9aa89@requests.fyi.org.nz

Tēnā koe ED Hirsche

Thank you for your email of 10 May 2026 to the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE) requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), the following information:

- 1. How many staff (excluding contractors and consultants) currently work in the NZ Institute of Advanced Technology? This should include people on loan /secondment from MBIE or other parts of government.*
- 2. Of those staff, please provide a breakdown by job title (e.g. one person - chief executive)*
- 3. Of those staff, please provide a breakdown by highest qualifications (e.g. degree) held*
- 4. Of which staff, please provide a breakdown by the subject of that highest qualification...*

The New Zealand Institute for Advanced Technology (NZIAT) was initially developed within MBIE and later established as a Crown entity company. NZIAT was created to strengthen New Zealand's advanced technology capability and accelerate the journey from scientific discovery to commercial impact.

With regard to the first two questions, I can advise that at the time of your request NZIAT consisted of four staff, comprised of an Establishment Chief Executive and three secondees from MBIE. Their job titles were as follows:

- Establishment Chief Executive
- Quantum Lead
- Artificial Intelligence Lead, and
- Strategic Advisor.

With regard to parts three and four of your request, I can advise that the Establishment Chief Executive holds a Bachelor of Laws. If you are interested, some further information about the experience they bring to this role can be found online at: <http://www.mbie.govt.nz/about/news/establishment-chief-executive-appointed-for-new-zealand-institute-for-advanced-technology>

Given the small number of staff and employees' reasonable expectations around privacy, I am withholding qualification information for the remaining three staff under section 9(2)(a) of the Act, to protect the privacy of natural persons, including that of deceased natural persons. I do not consider that the withholding of this information is outweighed by public interest considerations in making the information available.

I can however advise that under the Public Service Act 2020 and the Code of Conduct for the Public Sector, all public service appointments are required to be made on a merit basis. A merit-based

appointment requires preference to be given to the candidate who is best suited to the role. Fair and robust recruitment and selection processes are central to ensuring this obligation is met.

If you wish to discuss any aspect of your request or this response, or if you require any further assistance, please contact OIA@mbie.govt.nz.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this decision. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or freephone 0800 802 602.

Nāku noa, nā

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'JN', written in a cursive style.

Jennifer Nathan
Chief People Officer
People and Culture
Corporate and Digital Shared Services