

12 April 2016

Scout Barbour-Evans  
[fyi-request-3742-7906d2cc@requeusts.fyi.org.nz](mailto:fyi-request-3742-7906d2cc@requeusts.fyi.org.nz)

Dear Scout Barbour-Evans

### Official Information Act request on acknowledging non-binary gender identify

Thank you for your request of 11 March 2016 under the Official Information Act 1982, asking whether NZQA has any plans to acknowledge non-binary gender on its databases. You have requested:

- *When NZQA intends to recognise non-binary gender, with a gender marker of "X" instead of M/F.*
- *If these systems are already in place, how users of [our] service can have their records updated to reflect their gender.*

I understand that you have made the same request of the Ministry of Education. The student personal data NZQA holds aligns to the requirements set by the Ministry of Education for student management systems, ENRO, and the National Student Index. We appreciate that these systems do not currently recognise diversity of gender identity.

The Ministry of Education is leading the work, with NZQA and other education agencies, on implementation of the Statistics New Zealand standard on gender identity.

NZQA is committed to working closely with the Ministry of Education to ensure that the personal details that it requires schools to collect provides for the safe learning experience of students across the gender identity spectrum.

If you require further assistance or believe we have misinterpreted your request, please contact Elizabeth Templeton, Senior Advisor in the Office of the Chief Executive, email [elizabeth.templeton@nzqa.govt.nz](mailto:elizabeth.templeton@nzqa.govt.nz) or telephone (04) 463 3339.

If you are dissatisfied with our response, you have the right, under section 28(3) of the Official Information Act 1982, to lodge a complaint with the Office of the Ombudsmen, PO Box 10152, Wellington.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'K. Poutasi', is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Karen Poutasi (Dr)  
Chief Executive