

8 March 2018

Bernie D  
fyi-request-7245-196ca6e1@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Bernie D

### Official Information Act Request

Thank you for your request of 16 February 2018, under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) for the following information:

*Penalties that would be imposed on an international student who*

- *routinely submitted written work as his own, when in fact, many of the submissions were the work of third party essay writing services;*
- *attained a Bachelor of Business Studies and passed several additional papers towards a Master degree, both resultant to this cheating.*

Tertiary providers are required to have policies and procedures in place that cover student discipline, including investigating and dealing with plagiarism, and the processes students can follow when they appeal disciplinary decisions (*NZQA Guidelines for PTE registration*). Tertiary providers are also expected to make this information available to students (e.g. via a programme handbook).

The appropriate penalties for plagiarism that would be imposed on the international student described above are those that adhere to the policy and procedure of the tertiary provider concerned.

Regarding the essay writing service that the international student mentioned in your request is alleged to have used, section 292E of the Education Act, 1989, specifies that a person commits an offence through provision or advertisement of cheating services. NZQA would welcome any evidence you are able to provide regarding this essay writing service. You can provide this information to [QADRisk@nzqa.govt.nz](mailto:QADRisk@nzqa.govt.nz).

If you require further assistance or believe we have misinterpreted your request, please contact [ministerials@nzqa.govt.nz](mailto:ministerials@nzqa.govt.nz).

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 black ink, appearing to read 'K Poutasi', is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Karen Poutasi (Dr)  
Chief Executive