



28 MAR 2018

Matthew Whitehead
fyi-request-7358-5b0a012e@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Matthew

Thank you for your email of 2 March 2018 to the Ministry of Education requesting the following information:

- *I am writing to request information on the progress of a specific item in the School Leaver's Toolkit election pledge and how it has progressed into policy under the Official Information Act.*
- *I am specifically interested in the plan to provide mandatory civics education in years 11 and 13 mentioned during the election campaign, specifically:*
 - *What progress has been made to implementing this?*
 - *Is there any expected implementation date at this time, and if so, when?*
 - *How would such a course be integrated with other studies?*
 - *Has any consideration been given to the merits of implementing this education earlier in line with calls to lower the voting age to 16 or 15?*

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

The Government's manifesto commits to providing access to a 'School Leavers' Toolkit'. The Toolkit will give secondary school students the opportunity to learn valuable, practical skills for life beyond school, alongside learning from the curriculum.

Through the Toolkit, students will have the opportunity to learn to drive, develop their financial literacy and budgeting skills, develop key workplace competencies, and learn how our political system operates through civics education.

At the time of your request, the Ministry of Education had not provided Minister Hipkins with advice on the civics education component of the School Leavers' Toolkit. There is currently no expected implementation date for the civics education component of the School Leavers' Toolkit.

We have identified one document within the scope of your request.

Information about the School Leavers' Toolkit is still being considered as part of the Budget 18 by Ministers. As such this document is being withheld in full under section 9(2)(f)(iv) of the Act to maintain the constitutional conventions which protect the confidentiality of advice tendered by Ministers and officials.

Please note, the Ministry now proactively publishes OIA responses on our website. As such 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 this decision. You can do this by writing to info@ombudsman.parliament.nz or Office of the Ombudsman, PO Box 10152, Wellington 6143.

Yours sincerely



Ellen MacGregor-Reid
Deputy Secretary
Early Learning and Student Achievement