

Education New Zealand
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8 September 2021

Dear [REDACTED]

Official Information Act 1982 request – Request for Parliamentary Annual Review documents

I refer to your Official Information Act request (OIA), received by Education New Zealand (ENZ) on 12 August 2021, which asks the following questions:

- *Any written evidence/documents your agency sent to a Select Committee in response to an Annual Review(s)/Financial Review(s) for the following financial years:*
 - 2015/2016
 - 2016/2017
 - 2017/2018
 - 2018/2019
 - 2019/2020
 - 2020/2021

This includes:

- *Any supporting documents (e.g presentations, annexes of supplementary information or tables, supporting documents, etc) you supplied a Select Committee as part of each financial years' Annual Review/Financial Review processes.*

Specific format request

We are aware the content we are seeking is already available on the Parliamentary website. However, it is mostly in PDF format and PDF is unsuitable for our purposes. We wish to easily copy information in the documents including handling information in tables – which is not easily achievable in PDF.

Accordingly, consistent with Section 16 (2) of the Official Information Act, We ask you provide this information in a commonly used format we can easily manipulate/copy electronically. This could include commonly used proprietary formats such as Microsoft Word (eg .doc or .docx), Microsoft Excel (eg .xls or .xlsx), Microsoft PowerPoint (eg .ppt or .pptx) or, where appropriate and necessary, commonly used generic formats such as rich text (eg .rtf), comma-separated-value (eg .csv) formats. The key is being able to easily copy material from the documents (notably easily handling table information).

Basically, we suspect you will easily find the final Word versions or Powerpoint of your submissions to Parliament. That's really all we need.

Clarifications

To help narrow this request, we are not seeking:

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- a) *Copies of PDFs already on the Parliamentary website. We can access those ourselves.*
- b) *Other written material/evidence your agency may have provided a Select Committee or Parliamentary inquiry for any purpose other than in response to the Annual Review/Financial review processes - such as departmental advice on legislation or petitions or response to a Select Committee inquiry or ad hoc question.*
- c) *Any internal written material your agency used to support your participation in Annual Review/Financial Review processes but not provided to the Select Committee (eg internal supporting notes/talking points etc).*
- d) *Any written material provided to the relevant ministers or other agencies in support of the Annual Review/Financial Review processes such as briefings to Ministers or emails to other agencies.*
- e) *Any verbal advice or audio-visual/graphical material (such as videos, sound recordings, or standalone photographs, maps, etc) provided to the Select Committee as part of the Annual Review/Financial Review processes. We do not require any transcriptions of audio/visual material. We are specifically after documents provided to the Select Committee.*
- f) *Any new, revised, or corrected information provided to Parliament, or a Select Committee for any purpose other than the Annual Review or Financial review process for the relevant year. If you are aware the information changed or needed updating, you can separately note the corrections/revisions/updates in your covering correspondence.*
- g) *Any new versions of the information created to answer this request but that differ in content from the material provided to the Select Committee. Again, if information or data has changed, you can note those changes separately. We want the exact same information and data provided to the Select Committee in each relevant year.*
- h) *Any professionally laid out/published material (such as an Annual Report or SOI).*

We trust this helps narrow this request and removes any ambiguity. If you have follow-up questions, please feel free to email us your query via this email address.

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Availability

If your agency does not have the information in an easily editable format (as outlined above) then it would be helpful if you could specifically explain the reason for the unavailability, such as:

- a) *The information sought is held by another agency (we are aware some agencies – particularly Crown agents – may have been bundled with another entity’s response [eg CAA and AvSec responded jointly]) or answered by a parent body such as MBIE or the Ministry of Justice. If another agency has responded on your behalf, then please can you name the agency.*
- b) *Your agency has retained only PDF versions of material sent to a Select Committee and it cannot recreate an editable version.*
- c) *Your agency was created during the period covered by this request and can only supply information for recent years.*
- d) *Your agency is not subject to Annual Review/Financial Review scrutiny by Parliament.*

Eligibility

- *We are a Wellington-based initiative looking to collect, collate and analyse recent Annual Review/Financial Review responses to Parliament. Our PO Box is [REDACTED] if you need to verify eligibility.*

Urgency

This is not an urgent request. The normal statutory timeframes are fine.

Response

The attached document contains the information you have requested under the Official Information Act 1982 for the financial years 2015/16 through to 2019/20.

ENZ declines to provide the requested information for financial year 2020/21 under section 18(e) of the Official Information Act, on the grounds that this information does not exist.

Annual Review responses are generally requested by Select Committees following the publication of an organisation’s Annual Report. ENZ’s Annual Report for the 2020/21 year has not yet been published.

The publication of ENZ’s Annual Report is in line with the Crown Entities Act 2004, section 150.

ENZ acknowledges that providing this information in this format entrusts Project Mātauranga with the ability to combine, edit and change the information, and potentially to misconstrue or misrepresent information that has been provided by ENZ to Parliament. We would be happy to work with Project Mātauranga, if needed, to ensure that where information about ENZ is being used, that this does not occur. The contact details for a relevant staff member are included below.

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In preparing this information release ENZ has considered the public interest considerations in section 9(1) of the Official Information Act. 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 <https://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz/> or freephone 0800 802 602.

If you wish to discuss this decision with us, please feel free to contact Erika Szabo, Senior Advisor, Governance on +64 4 886 3768 or Erika.szabo@enz.govt.nz.

Please note that it is our policy to proactively release our responses to official information requests where possible. Our response to your request will be published shortly at <https://enz.govt.nz/about-enz/information-releases/>, with your personal information removed.

Yours sincerely



Grant McPherson
Chief Executive
Education New Zealand