



Pip Tinning
pip.tinning@nzate.org.nz

4 May 2026

Tēnā koe Pip

OIA: GEMS-46858 – Phase 5 English Writing Group

Thank you for your email of 18 February 2026 to the Ministry of Education (the Ministry) requesting the following information:

I request all information, advice, briefings, internal communications, and correspondence (including emails, meeting notes, text communications, memos and talking point notes) held by the Minister of Education's Office and/or the Ministry of Education relating to the selection and appointment process for the Phase 5 English Writing Group from 1 November 2025 to 18 February 2026.

Specifically, I request:

- 1. All documentation outlining the criteria, process, and decision-making framework used to select members of the Phase 5 English Writing Group.*
- 2. Any communications regarding nominations, recommendations, shortlisting, or appointment of members to the group.*
- 3. Any advice or analysis provided to the Minister (or Associate Ministers) regarding the composition of the group.*
- 4. Any documentation relating to considerations of representation, including but not limited to Māori and Pasifika representation, within the Phase 5 English Writing Group.*
- 5. The confirmed membership list of the Phase 5 English Writing Group, including any documentation identifying members' professional backgrounds and demographic representation (where collected).*

Your request has been considered under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) and numbered for ease of reference. We note that you also made this request to the Minister of Education (the Minister) and the Minister's Office has advised you that the Ministry will be responding.

Wellington – National Office, PO Box 1666, Wellington 6140
Phone: +64 4 463 8000

education.govt.nz

1. All documentation outlining the criteria, process, and decision-making framework used to select members of the Phase 5 English Writing Group.

The Ministry has identified one document in scope of this part of your request.

- *Ministry of Education Procurement Recommendation Report - Curriculum and Assessment Change Programme Phase 5 Subject Advisors EOI* dated 23 January 2026.

I am releasing this document to you in part as **Appendix A**, with some information withheld under the following sections of the Act:

- section 9(2)(a), to protect the privacy of natural persons
- section 9(2)(j), to protect the Ministry's ability to carry on, without prejudice or disadvantage, negotiations, including commercial negotiations.

2. Any communications regarding nominations, recommendations, shortlisting, or appointment of members to the group.

The process for appointing members to the Phase 5 writing group was iterative, and took place through several channels, including emails and in person meetings. Attempting to provide you with “*any communication*” regarding nominations, recommendations, shortlisting, or appointment of members to the group would represent a significant administrative task, and would likely lead to the refusal of this part of your request on substantial collation grounds (section 18(f) of the Act refers).

To meet the intent of your request, I am interpreting **part 2** to be for key communications regarding nominations, recommendations, shortlisting, or appointment of members to the group, rather than specific communications with or about individual nominees or appointees. Based on this interpretation, I am releasing three documents in part as **Appendix B**. These comprise:

- The email sent to principals, Subject Associations, Te Rūnanga Nui and Ngā Kura ā Iwi seeking nominations
- A copy of the survey monkey Expression of Interest template
- A copy of the master emails sent to candidates (both successful and unsuccessful) and nominating principals advising them of the Ministry's decisions.

Some information has been withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the Act, as above.

3. Any advice or analysis provided to the Minister (or Associate Ministers) regarding the composition of the group.

No advice or analysis was provided to the Minister (or Associate Ministers) of Education regarding the composition of the Phase 5 English Writing Group, as this is an operational matter for the Ministry. I am therefore refusing this part of your request under section 18(e) of the Act, as the information does not exist.

4. Any documentation relating to considerations of representation, including but not limited to Māori and Pasifika representation, within the Phase 5 English Writing Group.

The Ministry has generated no documentation relating to considerations of representation, including Māori and Pasifika representation, within the Phase 5 English Writing Group. I am therefore also refusing this part of your request under section 18(e) of the Act, as above. Insofar as you are seeking information about the desired attributes of writing group members, this is covered in our response to **parts 1 and 2** of your request above. We would draw your particular attention to the Essential Expertise criteria, which specifies that candidates should have an *understanding of the needs of diverse learners, including Māori, Pacific, and disabled learners.*

5. The confirmed membership list of the Phase 5 English Writing Group, including any documentation identifying members' professional backgrounds and demographic representation (where collected).

I can confirm that six individuals have been appointed to the Phase 5 English Writing Group. I am withholding their identifying details, including individuals' professional and demographic information, under the following sections of the Act:

- 9(2)(a), as above
- 9(2)(ba)(i), to protect information supplied to the Ministry under an express obligation of confidence.

I can advise that all members of the English Writing Group have demonstrated expertise in the subject and curriculum design, an understanding of the knowledge rich curriculum, and insight into pathways and transitions.

As required under section 9(1) of the Act, I have considered the public interest in releasing the information withheld. I do not consider that the public interest considerations favouring the release of this information are sufficient to outweigh the need to withhold it at this time.

Thank you again for your email. You have the right to ask an Ombudsman to review my decision on your request, in accordance with section 28 of the Act. You can do this by writing to info@ombudsman.parliament.nz or to Office of the Ombudsman, PO Box 10152, Wellington 6143.

Nāku noa, nā

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Pauline".

Pauline Cleaver
Hautū (Taupua) | Deputy Secretary (Acting)
Te Poutāhū (Curriculum Centre)