

Reference: 20230330

4 September 2023

Matthew Hooton  
fyi-request-23428-06ef3693@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Matthew

Thank you for your Official Information Act request, received on 7 July 2023. You requested the following:

*Under the OIA, could I please have all written advice prepared by the Treasury over the last ten years for ministers and other government agencies on the question of a new Medical School at the University of Waikato, including arguments made for and against.*

On 4<sup>th</sup> April 2023 the time to respond was extended by 20 working days to allow for consultation.

### Information being released

Please find enclosed the following documents:

Item	Date	Document Description	Decision
1.	1 June 2017	Treasury Report T2017-1387 Waikato Medical School - Update	Release in full (except ph numbers)
2.	7 July 2017	Joint Tertiary Education, Health & Treasury Report - The Updated University of Waikato/Waikato DHB Proposal to Establish a Third Medical School in New Zealand	Release in full (except ph numbers)
3.	21 July 2017	Treasury Report T2017-1935 Medical Training and Workforce - Competition, Supply and Regional Distribution Considerations	Release in full (except ph numbers)

I have decided to release the documents listed above, subject to information being withheld under one or more of the following sections of the Official Information Act, as applicable:

- names and contact details of officials, under section 9(2)(g)(ii) – to maintain the effective conduct of public affairs through protecting Ministers, members of

government organisations, officers and employees from improper pressure or harassment, and

- direct dial phone numbers of officials, under section 9(2)(k) – to prevent the disclosure of information for improper gain or improper advantage.

Direct dial phone numbers of officials have been redacted under section 9(2)(k) in order to reduce the possibility of staff being exposed to phishing, social engineering and other scams. This is because information released under the OIA may end up in the public domain, for example, on websites including Treasury's website.

In making my decision, I have considered the public interest considerations in section 9(1) of the Official Information Act.

### **Context**

The three reports released in this response were developed in 2017 in response to the University of Waikato's proposal to create a new medical school at the time. These reports were developed using the details and information available on that proposal and may differ from any proposal that might be being considered by the University of Waikato or other parties. These reports were also prepared for a previous Government. We have not revisited this matter since these reports were prepared six years ago. The views, concerns or context in which advice was given may have changed. Further, the considerations, analysis and recommendations presented could be outdated and may not represent the current views of officials or government departments, including Treasury.

Please note that this letter (with your personal details removed) and enclosed documents may be published on the Treasury website.

This reply addresses the information you requested. You have the right to ask the Ombudsman to investigate and review my decision.

Yours sincerely

Laura King  
**Team Leader, Communities, Learning and Work**