

17 December 2015

Liam Stoneley

By email: fyi-request-3330-e4a98847@requests.fyi.org.nz

Tēnā koe Liam

Re: Official Information Act Request

I refer to your request for information pursuant to the Official Information Act 1982 (“the Act”) of 4 November 2015. You have requested the following information from Victoria University (“the University”):

“a breakdown of the number of students who have:

- a. Requested to sit any assessment in Te Reo Maori where the language of instruction is English*
- b. Sat their assessment in Te Reo Maori*
- c. Complaints made to either College or University level for the result of their marked Te Reo Maori assessment*
 - i. Please provide a table of reasons for those complaints and what their result was by College, and going back as far as records allow.*

If you have a School of Law, please provide a table of:

- a. How many assessments were assessed in Te Reo Maori where the language of instruction is English; and*
- b. Who marked (or has been asked to mark) those assessments taken in Te Reo Maori, as far as records allow.*

Further to point (2), please provide any information on the type of assessment, it’s percentage and for what course. Any other information on these assessments would be appreciated.”

The information you have requested is not collated centrally by the University. Requests to sit assessments in Te Reo Māori are managed by individual faculties pursuant to the University’s *Use of Te Reo Māori for Assessment Policy*, a copy of which can be found at: <http://www.victoria.ac.nz/documents/policy/academic/the-use-of-te-reo-maori-for-assessment-policy.pdf>

As this information is not held centrally, relevant staff members across each Faculty have been consulted and have attempted to provide the requested information to the best of their recollections. I have set this information out below, following your question structure, however would caution that because this information is not centrally recorded we have no way of guaranteeing its accuracy.

Please also note that more assessments may have been sat in Te Reo Māori than are noted below, as students may not have followed the formal process set out in the *Use of Te Reo Māori for Assessment Policy*. In such cases, markers often informally obtain the translation assistance of colleagues who speak Te Reo Māori and these instances may not have been captured within the information provided below. In others cases, markers may simply have had the Māori language capacity to mark the assessment in Te Reo Māori.

Part One: Requests to Sit Assessments in Te Reo Māori (excluding Faculty of Law)

Please see the table below which details the number of requests to sit assessments in Te Reo Māori where the language of instruction is English during the 2013-2015 period, drawn from individual staff members' records and recollections. Each of these requests refers to an assessment which proceeded to be sat in Te Reo Māori.

| Faculty | Requests to Sit Assessments in Te Reo Māori 2013-2015 |
|---|--|
| Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences | 0 ¹ |
| Faculty of Education | 50 |
| Faculty of Science | 0 |
| Faculty of Engineering | 0 |
| Faculty of Commerce | 0 |
| Faculty of Graduate Research | 0 (1 thesis currently in progress) |
| Faculty of Architecture & Design | 0 |

I can confirm that the University has not received any complaints in respect of these assessments.

Part Two: Faculty of Law Requests to Sit Assessments in Te Reo Māori

Since 2006 there has been a total of five Faculty of Law students who have sought to submit an assessment in Te Reo Māori and who have sat their assessments in Te Reo Māori. Please see the below table detailing the assessments submitted by these student in Te Reo Māori. Again, please note that this information has been collated on the basis of staff members' recollections and is not centrally recorded by the University.

¹ The Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences has not received any formal requests pursuant to the *Use of Te Reo Māori for Assessment Policy* during this time, however has informally managed the translation and marking of a number of pieces of assessment sat in Te Reo Māori.

| Year | Course | Assessment | Marked by English speaking Faculty member (relying on translation) | Marked by Māori speaking Faculty member |
|------|----------|------------|--|---|
| 2007 | LAWS 121 | Test | ✓ | |
| 2007 | LAWS 309 | Essay | ✓ | |
| 2007 | LAWS 372 | Essay | ✓ | |
| 2007 | LAWS 329 | Essay | ✓ | |
| 2008 | LAWS 324 | Essay | | ✓ |
| 2012 | LAWS 121 | Essay | | ✓ |
| 2013 | LAWS 297 | Essay | | ✓ |

Please note that each of these assessments were internal 'terms assessments' rather than examinations so were likely worth between 10% and 40% of the students' final course grade.

Two issues in respect of requests to sit assessments in Te Reo Māori have arisen within the Faculty of Law. The first arose in 2006 as a student sought to have their assessment assessed in Te Reo Māori, but at that stage the Faculty of Law had no defined process to put into action the request. A committee was subsequently formed, a process drafted, and this matter was resolved.

In 2007 a student was unhappy with the translation of an assignment and sought a reconsideration. The Faculty communicated with the translator about the issue and the matter was resolved. The student was satisfied with the result of the reconsideration and resolution.

I trust that this information is of assistance.

Ngā mihi

Piri Sciascia
Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Māori)