

Our Ref: OIA 23-142

8 December 2023

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Tēnā koe, [REDACTED]

**Re: Request of incoming minister briefing documents**

I refer to your email dated 27 November 2023 to the Education Review Office requesting information under the Official Information Act 1982 as follows:

*[A]ny/all of the briefing documents prepared for the incoming Education Minister, Associate Education Minister and Tertiary Education Minister*

Briefings to incoming Ministers (BIM) are confidential to Ministers and it is up to Ministers to decide if, and when, a BIM is released.

We are withholding the information to maintain the constitutional conventions for the time being which protect the political neutrality of officials under section 9(2)(f)(iii), and the confidentiality of advice tendered by Ministers of the Crown and officials under section 9(2)(f)(iv) of the OIA.

The public interest considerations to release do not outweigh the need to withhold under section 9(2)(f)(iii) and (iv) of the OIA.

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 [www.ombudsman.parliament.nz](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz) or freephone 0800 802 602.

Ngā mihi



Jeremy France  
Deputy Chief Executive Corporate Services  
Education Review Office | Te Tari Arotake Mātauranga  
National Office | Tari Matua