

Briefing Note:

COVID 19 and communication with Ministers Office and sector

Date:	27 March 2020	Priority:	Medium
To:	Hon Minister Hipkins	File:	EC-1907
cc			
From:	Lesley Hoskin – Chief Executive	Security	In Confidence

Purpose

You advised that your political advisors and your office have been instructed to address the constraints on Cabinet's availability. This affects how work priorities should be progressed over the coming weeks. You have asked the Teaching Council to respond to the points below.

Issues

There is a clear focus on responding to COVID-19. Considering this, you informed us as follows:

- 1. Papers, unless they are COVID-19-related or statutorily required, should not be progressed. This includes any papers which propose fee or levy increases. However, your agency should consolidate an updated list of planned upcoming papers to test with the office whether there could be any exceptions to this. Please include in the list a summary of why any papers should be considered a continued priority.*
- 2. Similarly, your agency should review upcoming advice/briefings/Aide Memoirs (including weekly/fortnightly/monthly) to the Minister and consider whether it can be delayed if not COVID-19 related or requiring statutory decisions. Please provide free and frank advice on upcoming papers for the office to review and consider whether there should be any exceptions to this.*
- 3. No new engagement or public consultation should begin from today onwards – please update the office on any that was planned to begin shortly and the impacts of not going ahead with this.*
- 4. Can your agency please also provide a stocktake with the current state and details of mode of any currently active engagement (e.g. online, small groups, workshops, etc.), and any impacts that ending engagement ahead of schedule may have.*

Teaching Council response

Relevant personnel with the Council have advised as follows:

- a. Fees consultation potentially falls into the fourth category – the consultation period is over, but the overarching process including decision making and communicating any decisions, plus gazette notices, if required, will need to be done between May and July.



- b. The Council is intending to continue engagement with Peak body groups to finalise our decision on appraisal. The hui is an online one, scheduled for 2 April. We'll be checking in with members availability before committing to going ahead.
- c. We have already cancelled or postponed professional learning and development hui and engagement with groups of teachers. We envisage continuing to work with members of the profession online to develop web-based resource material as an interim approach to support teachers' learning. However, for the lockdown period our engagement with groups of teachers is on hold.
- d. In our core business areas, we will be continuing to be in contact with teachers over the coming weeks to progress certification, ITE programme adjustments, panels for ITE approvals and conduct and competence issues where appropriate. Conduct and competence engagement will only progress where an individual teacher (or their advocate) has asked for this to happen.

