

Our ref: OIA 20 - 18

4 May 2020

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Dear Jordan

**Official Information Act Request – COVID-19: Voluntary Pay Cut.**

I am writing to you in response to your letter dated 18 April 2020 to the Chief Executive of the Education Review Office seeking information about any measures that Public Service departments and leaders might take in relation to remuneration, further to those announced by the Prime Minister recently.

You have specifically asked whether the Education Review Office will fairly share the burden of the economic crunch by:

- 1. cancelling all scheduled salary increases for all but frontline workers until the economy has recovered (i.e. when quarterly GDP has returned in real terms to the that of Q4-2019); and*
- 2. following many leaders in the private sector by*
  - reducing your salary by 20 percent for the next 12 months; and*
  - asking second-level managers (those who report directly to you) to do the same*
- 3. What actions ERO is undertaking to reduce payroll costs, and whether the specific proposals above have been, or will be, implemented.*

In relation to questions one and two, we note that the State Services Commissioner has, on the 29<sup>th</sup> of April 2020, written to you on behalf of Public Service chief executives advising you that he has issued guidance to State Services agencies on pay restraint and also referenced in his letter to the following link to the SSC website where the “pay restraint in the public sector as a result of Covid-19” guidance can be found: <https://ssc.govt.nz/our-work/er/>.

In relation to question 3, ERO is currently in the process of finalising its internal budgets for 2020/21 and will, as always, be focussing on the effective and efficient delivery of its functions. We will be taking the advice of the State Services Commissioner into account when preparing the budgets and following the guidance provided.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'J. France', with a stylized flourish at the end.

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