



A Guide on how to read Plan Guidance

Background

Investment plans are the main way in which we allocate funds. Plan Guidance is the document which advises TEOs what we expect to see in their plans.

Plan Guidance is part of the broader Investment Approach work programme. The Investment Approach is the way in which we can work together to move towards a more outcomes-based system: A system that focuses on benefits for the learner, the tertiary education sector and New Zealand.

What has changed in Plan Guidance?

Plan Guidance for the next round is different. We have framed the document to provide you with the opportunity to tell us a story about the things that are important to you – for example your role and mission and how you will contribute to the Tertiary Education Strategy priorities.

Overall approach

We are moving away from a document that is a series of ‘must dos’ that we insist TEOs should follow. You are best placed to let us know about the challenges you face and opportunities that exist. We are interested in hearing about these.

As a result, this should be an easier document to understand and we are keen to hear if that is how you find it – we still have time to work with you to get the language and content right.

There are still legislative requirements which we all have to comply with. You will find some of this referred to in this document, but much of the detail will be confirmed in the New Year.

Timing

Plan Guidance is out early – now rather than May. This gives us more time to work with you and have good conversations and to help shape what will go into plans.

Content

This Plan Guidance document is deliberately light on detail – this is still to come. At this stage we want to have meaningful conversations with you, taking a higher, more strategic approach. This includes thinking about questions like:

- › What are the best ways to really make a difference for learners, the sector and New Zealand and how that fits with the Tertiary Education Strategy?
- › How can we achieve continuous performance improvement, particularly in areas of good governance and risk management?
- › How can we ensure alignment and consistency between investment plans, other strategic plans and an organisations vision and mission?

A more strategic approach also means that content in Plan Guidance is not set in stone. We need your input and feedback to help us shape and finalise the detail at the operational level, so we can identify the best ways of implementing the changes we agree on.

We plan to provide more information around the tools, templates, content and criteria required to finalise plans by end of March 2016 following our conversations with you.

What remains the same?

Tertiary Education Strategy focus

Our focus on the Tertiary Education Strategy has not changed. We still have the same priorities but the way we work towards them will be different.

The tertiary system as a whole needs to give effect to the Tertiary Education Strategy, therefore we all need to work towards this. However each TEO does not necessarily have to contribute to all the Tertiary Education Strategy priorities. It will depend on an organisation's mission and role, and how it is meeting the needs of its learners and the communities it serves.

Detail

Later guidance document(s) will be more familiar, including many of the tools and templates that you will need to use, and the *Gazette* notice.

Have questions?

Great! We want to hear from you about what you think and start to look at ways in which we can implement these ideas.

We have created a list of *Frequently Asked Questions*, which we would suggest you take a look at first and see if there is information there that you might find useful.

Over the next few months there will be a number of engagement opportunities where you can share your thoughts and feedback on Plan Guidance – we will keep you up to date on those as we confirm details.

At any time we welcome and encourage you to contact your Investment Manager or the Sector Helpdesk on 0800 601 301. You can email the Investment Approach Project Team directly tecinvestment.approach@tec.govt.nz or you can fill in our [online feedback form](#).