

12 June 2019

John Luke

[fyi-request-10311-feb6d86a@requests.fyi.org.nz](mailto:fyi-request-10311-feb6d86a@requests.fyi.org.nz)

Ref: DOIA 1819-1640

Dear Mr Luke

I refer to your official information request, which was received by the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment on 14 May 2019. You requested, under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA), the following information:

*I understand from Immigration's website that you have a Welcoming Communities Advisory Board. <https://www.immigration.govt.nz/about-us/what-we-do/welcoming-communities/who-is-involved> I would like to know how you have selected the current member and if there are any meeting minutes since its establishment. Also, how long is their appointment for and given this is a topic concerning lots of people, would you be calling for any express of interest in the future or can public express their interest?*

#### Our response

The Welcoming Communities Advisory Board (the Advisory Board) was established in July 2017 to assist with the development of the pilot programme *Welcoming Communities – Te Waharoa Ki Ngā Hapori* (2017/18 to 2018/19).

Eight people, from a combination of backgrounds and sectors, were invited by the National Manager Settlement, Immigration New Zealand, to be a member of the Advisory Board. Those invited were selected on the basis of the skills, expertise and experience they would bring to programme. These included: newcomer settlement, community development, race relations, social cohesion, diversity and inclusion, business acumen, tikanga Māori and cross-cultural research.

All of those invited agreed to become a member of the Advisory Board and were subsequently appointed.

The Advisory Board members have provided subject matter expertise relevant to the pilot programme's development, in particular in relation to the design of the Welcoming Communities Standard for New Zealand. The members have not met as a group in person, by Skype or by conference call so there are no meeting minutes.

Membership for all members expires on 30 June 2019. The Advisory Board will be disestablished at that time. We therefore do not intend to extend their membership or to seek or appoint any new members.

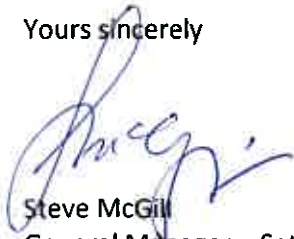


No information has been withheld or refused.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this response. Information about how to make a complaints is available at [www.ombudsman.parliament.nz](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz) or freephone 0800 802 602

If you wish to discuss any aspect of your request or this response, please contact Nicolette Edgar [Nicolette.Edgar@mbie.govt.nz](mailto:Nicolette.Edgar@mbie.govt.nz).

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Steve McGill', is written over the typed name.

Steve McGill  
General Manager – Settlement, Protection and Attraction  
Immigration New Zealand  
Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment