



EXECUTIVE COUNCIL CHAMBERS

27 January 2021

John Luke
fyi-request-14423-9e0fb566@requests.fyi.org.nz

Ref: OIA-2020/21-0283

Dear Mr John Luke

Official Information Act request: Nominations received and considered during 2018-2020

Thank you for your Official Information Act request received on 8 January 2021. You requested:

"I would like to ask for an updated for my previous request OIA-2019/20-0232 I would like to know the total nomination has been received an considered during 2018-2020. Are there any changes compare to the data between 2014-2017?"

The number of nominations considered for each list since 2018 has remained comparable to the period over 2014 to 2017. The Honours Unit has a Frequently Asked Question's page on the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet's website: <https://dpmc.govt.nz/our-programmes/new-zealand-royal-honours/new-zealand-royal-honours-faqs>. These state that a total of around 800 to 1000 nominations are considered each year. This range reflects the nominations considered each year since 2014 and remains an accurate range.

Protecting the confidentiality of material about Honours nominations and appointments is essential to maintaining the integrity of the New Zealand Royal Honours system. In particular, the protection of such information ensures that those engaging with the Honours system can rely on the confidentiality of the process.

Successive Ombudsmen have considered that information relating to the Royal Honours system may be withheld under the Official Information Act because there is a strong public interest in the protection of the confidentiality of the Royal Honours process.

Accordingly, I am withholding the exact number of nominations considered for each list between 2014 and 2018 under the following sections of the Act:

- s 9(2)(ba)(ii) to protect information which is subject to an obligation of confidence and to make it available would be likely to otherwise damage the public interest;

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- s 9(2)(f)(iv) to maintain the constitutional conventions that protect the confidentiality of advice tendered by Ministers of the Crown and officials.

You have the right to ask the Ombudsman to investigate and review my decision under section 28(3) of the Act.

Yours sincerely

Michael Webster

Michael Webster
Clerk of the Executive Council