



John Luke

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Tēnā koe John Luke

On 17 May 2021, you emailed the Ministry of Social Development (the Ministry) requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982, the following information:

- *I would like to request a list of vacancy (ministerial appointment only, e.g. board member, Lay member, Trustee etc) that the nomination period has been closed but still under consideration by the Ministry or relevant Minister.*
- *In your list, can you please include the date that vacancy been advertised, what method you have used to publicly advertise the position and when the vacancy been closed as well.*

On 20 May 2021, the Ministry contacted you to refine your request. The Ministry asked if you were referring to the Ministry's Community Representative who are appointed to the Benefits Review Committee (BRC) by the Minister for Social Development and Employment. On 21 May 2021 you confirmed that you would like the information relating to the BRC and any other Boards in scope of your request.

Benefits Review Committee

BRC Community representatives are Ministerial appointees who provide a community perspective in the decision-making process of the BRC. The BRC considers reviews against decisions made by the Ministry in relation to benefit entitlements.

BRC Community representatives are appointed for a fixed term of five years and can apply for re-appointment after the end of their tenure.

Social Workers Complaints and Disciplinary Tribunal

The Social Workers Complaints and Disciplinary Tribunal's (the Tribunal) functions are to administer the complaints process concerning registered social workers established by the Social Workers Registration Act 2003, and to exercise the disciplinary powers over registered social workers conferred by the Act.

The Ministry gained approval from the responsible Minister (Hon Carmel Sepuloni) in August 2020 to begin an appointment process for lay members to the Tribunal. The position was advertised in September 2020, closed in October, and the Tribunal identified two applicants who would be suitable. The appointment process was delayed at this point as a new Government was formed and because a fee review for the Tribunal was also being considered. The Minister agreed to the suggested lay member appointments in March 2021, and they were considered by APH in early June. The appointment process will be completed by the end of this month (June 2021).

Please see below **Table One** which shows the name and number of vacancies, the date the vacancy was advertised, the date the vacancy closed and where it was advertised.

Table One: The name and number of vacancies, the date it was advertised, the date advert closed and where the vacancy was advertised.

Name of the vacancy	Date it was advertised	Dated advert closed	How/where did this get advertised
Community Representative on Benefits Review Committee (4 Vacancies)	12 February 2021	5 March 2021	•Hawkes Bay Today newspaper •Gisborne Herald newspaper • https://jobs.govt.nz/
Social Workers Complaints and Disciplinary Tribunal (2 Vacancies)	28 September 2020	25 October 2020	•MSD jobs, • https://jobs.govt.nz/ •SEEK

Please note that there were four vacancies for BRC representatives raised in the East Coast region at the same time which were advertised separately in Gisborne and in Hawkes Bay.

The principles and purposes of the Official Information Act 1982 under which you made your request are:

- to create greater openness and transparency about the plans, work and activities of the Government,
- to increase the ability of the public to participate in the making and administration of our laws and policies and
- to lead to greater accountability in the conduct of public affairs.

This Ministry fully supports those principles and purposes. The Ministry therefore intends to make the information contained in this letter available to the wider public. The Ministry will do this by publishing this on the Ministry of Social Development's website. Your personal details will be deleted, and the Ministry will not publish any information that would identify you as the person who requested the information.

If you wish to discuss this response with us, please feel free to contact OIA_Requests@msd.govt.nz.

If you are not satisfied with this response regarding BRC vacancies, you have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or 0800 802 602.

Ngā mihi nui



Diane Anderson
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Client Advocacy and Review