



# Te Kawa Mataaho

Public Service Commission

23 November 2021

C Carpenter

[fyi-request-17394-e0b54c7d@requests.fyi.org.nz](mailto:fyi-request-17394-e0b54c7d@requests.fyi.org.nz)

Dear Mr Carpenter

## Official Information Request

**Our Ref: 2021-0154**

I refer to your official information request received on 29 October 2021 for:

*“Notwithstanding that the Parliamentary Services is an independent body, I believe that you have some oversight of that body.*

*To that end, I am requesting copies of any advice, instructions or other directions that apply to the Parliamentary Services insofar as appointments to vacancies are concerned and copies of any correspondence between PSC and the Parliamentary Services.*

*I understand that there have been several people appointed to IT jobs paying over \$150000 per year where normal public service appointment processes have taken place (such as publicly advertising the jobs) and what hallmarks of nepotism are evident.*

*The public would also be interested in the PSC expectations of all tax-funded agencies when it comes to recruitment and appointment”.*

## Our Response

The Public Service Commissioner does not have responsibility for the employment processes within the Parliamentary Service. The Parliamentary Service was established by the Parliamentary Service Act 1985 and continues under the provisions of the Parliamentary Service Act 2000 and is accountable to the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

Employment of Parliamentary Service employees is the responsibility of the Chief Executive of the Service, who appoints employees in line with employment requirements in the Parliamentary Service Act (including requirements for notifying vacancies, making appointments based on merit, and having a procedure for review of appointments), as well as the Employment Relations Act 2000.

Therefore, we are refusing the first two parts of your request under section 18(e) of the Official Information Act 1982 on the grounds that the information requested does not exist.

In response to your question where you have asked regarding the Commission’s expectations when it comes to recruitment and appointment within the Public Service departments, on 28 April 2020 the Public Service Commissioner issued guidance under s.95(c) of the Public Service Act 2020 as operational guidance on the Government Workforce Policy Statement on expectations for employment relations.

It applies to Public Service agencies' decision making on pay and other public sector agencies are asked to take this guidance into account in their decision making.

Please find listed in the table below the guidance referenced above which is publicly available on the Te Kawa Mataaho Public Service Commission website at the links provided for in the table. We are refusing part of your request for the Commissioner's expectations under section 18(d) of the Official Information Act 1982 on the grounds that the information requested is publicly available.

Item	Document Description	Website Address
1.	Public Service Pay Guidance 2021	<a href="#">Public Service Pay Guidance 2021</a>
2.	Government Workforce Policy Statement on the Government's expectations for employment relations in the public sector	<a href="#">Government Workforce Policy Statement</a>
3.	Further advice to public sector employers.	<a href="#">Employment Relations</a>

If you wish to discuss this decision with us, please feel free to contact [Ministerial.Services@publicservice.govt.nz](mailto:Ministerial.Services@publicservice.govt.nz).

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

Please note that we intend to publish this letter (with your personal details removed) on the Commission's website.

Yours sincerely



Nicky Dirks  
**Manager – Ministerial and Executive Services**  
**Te Kawa Mataaho Public Service Commission**