



Te Kawa Mataaho

Public Service Commission

17 November 2023

John Luke

fyi-request-24718-26350fb9@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear John

Official Information Request Our Ref: OIA 2023-0270

I refer to your official information request received on 12 November 2023 for:

"I noted,

<https://www.publicservice.govt.nz/role-and-purpose/spirit-of-service/public-service-day-awards/public-service-day-awards-2023/>

May I kindly ask how many nomination you have received for the medal and how many you have received for the Public Service Commissioner's Commendation for Excellence.

What is your nomination process and what is your definition of public servants, e.g. who can be nominate?"

Information being withheld

The New Zealand Public Service Medal is a meritorious service award of the New Zealand Royal Honours System. 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 1982 (OIA) because there is a strong public interest in the protection of the confidentiality of the Royal Honours process.

Accordingly, I am withholding the number of nominations received for the Public Service Medal and the Public Service Commissioners Commendation for Excellence under the following sections of the Official Information Act:

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

Publicly available information

The nomination process along with the definition of a public servant (for the purposes of the Public Service Day Awards) is publicly available on our website at the link provided in the below table:

Item	Document Description	Website Address
1	Public Service Day Awards	Public Service Day Awards - Te Kawa Mataaho Public Service Commission

Accordingly, I have refused this part of your request for the information listed in the above table under section 18(d) of the OIA on the grounds the information is publicly available.

If you wish to discuss this decision with us, please feel free to contact 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 or freephone 0800 802 602.

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

Yours sincerely



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