

Hon Paul Goldsmith

Minister for Arts, Culture and Heritage
Minister of Justice
Minister for Media and Communications
Minister for State Owned Enterprises
Minister for Treaty of Waitangi Negotiations



11 October 2024

Tyler Smith
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Tēnā koe Tyler

Official Information Act request: Appointments of Human Rights Commissioners

Thank you for your email of 18 August 2024, requesting under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), information about the selection of the Human Rights Commissioner(s). Specifically, you requested:

I am seeking advice prepared which supported the Minister in appointing a new Chief Human Rights Commissioner and Race Relations Minister.

- 1. Any advice received for the appointment of Dr Stephen Rainbow as the new Chief Human Rights Commissioner. Including any signed advice.*
- 2. Any advice received for the appointment of Dr Melissa Derby as the new Race Relations Commissioner. Including any signed advice.*
- 3. Who put Dr Stephen Rainbow on a list of potential Chief Human Rights Commissioners, i.e did MOJ suggest his name, or did the Minister or someone acting for the Government suggest he be included on a list of potential Commissioners?*
- 4. Who put Dr Melissa Derby on a list of potential Race Relations Commissioner, i.e did MOJ suggest his name, or did the Minister or someone acting for the Government suggest he be included on a list of potential Commissioners?*

In response to parts 1 and 2 of your request please refer to the table below, which lists the documents in scope of your request and my decisions on their release. Please note, some information has been withheld under sections 9(2)(a) and 9(2)(g)(i) of the Act to protect the privacy of natural persons and the free and frank expression of opinions.

In response to parts 3 and 4, I can advise that the ACT party nominated Dr Stephen Rainbow for the Chief Human Rights commissioner position and I suggested that Dr Derby apply for the Race Relations Commissioner position.

In accordance with section 9(1) of the Act, I have considered the public interest in making available the information being withheld and determined that it does not outweigh the need to withhold the information at this time.

If you are not satisfied with this response, you have the right to make a complaint to the Ombudsman under section 28(3) of the Act. The Office of the Ombudsman may be contacted by email to info@ombudsman.parliament.nz or by phone on 0800 802 602.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Paul Goldsmith". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a prominent initial 'P'.

Hon Paul Goldsmith
Minister of Justice

Table of documents:

No.	Date	Document	Description	Decision on release
1	6/03/2024	Briefing	Shortlisting paper for the Minister of Justice	Some information withheld under s9(2)(a)
2	26/03/2024	Briefing	HRC directions for the Minister of Justice from the Ministry of Justice dated 26 March 2024	Some information withheld under ss9(2)(a) and 9(2)(g)(i)
3	7/06/2024	Briefing	HRC appointments	Some information withheld under ss9(2)(a) and 9(2)(g)(i)
4	13/08/2024	Papers	Appointment papers for Chief, EEO & RRC	Some information withheld under s9(2)(a)
5	Undated	Report	Panel Report for Minister of Justice (consolidated version)	Withheld in full under s9(2)(g)(i)
6	Undated	Report	Panel Report on RRC candidate	Withheld in full under s9(a)
7	Undated	Cabinet Paper	Cabinet APH paper	Released in full
8	Undated	Talking points	Talking points for Cabinet APH paper	Released in full