

16 September 2024

John Luke
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Our ref: OIA 115066

Tēnā koe John

Official Information Act request: Human Rights Commission appointments

Thank you for your email of 19 August 2024 to the Ministry of Justice (the Ministry), requesting under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) information about the selection of the Human Rights Commissioners (the Commissioners). Specifically, you requested:

... May I ask how you called for public nomination and on what platform you have call for public nominations e.g. govt.jobs website. Also, how many applications you have received for each of the Human Rights Commissioner positions from the public and how many you have received from other nominating agencies such as TPK or Ministry of women etc for your role. How many you have shortlisted and how many you have interviewed.

In response to your request, the Ministry called for expressions of interest for these positions by advertising them on the Ministry's website at: justice.govt.nz/about/statutory-vacancies/ The Ministry also emailed about 100 community organisations and individuals identified from the contact list for the Ministry's internal human rights reporting, asking them to encourage suitable candidates to apply. Nominations were also sought from members of the Government caucus and the leaders of coalition parties. Ministry guidance for the appointment of Commissioners can be read here: justice.govt.nz/assets/Guidance-for-the-appointment-of-Human-Rights-Commissioners.pdf/

The total number of expressions of interest and nominations was as follows:

- Chief Commissioner: 12
- Equal Employment Opportunities Commissioner: 9
- Race Relations Commissioner: 18

None of these expressions of interest were received from nominating agencies.

The total number of candidates shortlisted for the positions was as follows:

- Chief Commissioner: 6
- Equal Employment Opportunities Commissioner: 3
- Race Relations Commissioner: 6

The total number of candidates subsequently interviewed for the positions was as follows:

- Chief Commissioner: 6
- Equal Employment Opportunities Commissioner: 3
- Race Relations Commissioner: 4

If you require any further information, please contact Media & Social Media Manager Joe Locke at media@justice.govt.nz.

Please note that this response, with your personal details removed, may be published on the Ministry website at: justice.govt.nz/about/official-information-act-requests/oia-responses/.

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.

Nāku noa, nā



Jeff Orr
Chief Legal Counsel