

10 December 2024

John Luke

By email: fyi-request-29225-1f91554e@requests.fyi.org.nz

Ref: H2024056143

Tēnā koe John Luke

Response to your request for official information

Thank you for your request under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) to the Ministry of Health – Manatū Hauora (the Ministry) on 16 November 2024 for information regarding nominations for the Medicines Adverse Reactions Committee (MARC). You requested:

“I noted, you have recently call for nomination for your Medicines Adverse Reactions Committee. 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 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 this recruitment round. May I also seek a copy of the ad went out to public and the appointment letter sent to the appointee, feel free to redact any personal information.”

The MARC has a specific composition which includes one member of the public. This is detailed on the Medsafe website and found publicly available here:

www.medsafe.govt.nz/committees/marc.asp

The vacancy advertised was for an epidemiologist/biostatistician, not a member of the public. Recruitment does not proceed through a process of public nominations. The process was as follows:

- The vacancy was advertised with the attached advertisement on the Medsafe website.
- The advertisement was sent to the Best Practice Advocacy Centre, Medical Council of New Zealand, Ministry for Ethnic Communities – Te Tari Mātāwaka, Ministry for Pacific People – Te Manatū mō ngā lwi ō te Moana-nui-ā-Kiwa, Ministry for Women – Manatū Wāhine, Ministry of Disabled People – Whaikaha, Ministry of Māori Development – Te Puni Kōkiri, New Zealand Formulary, Pasifika Medical Association, Te Ohu Rata O Aotearoa (Te ORA) - Māori Medical Practitioners Association and Te Tāhū Hauora Health Quality & Safety Commission, Director-General of Health, Ministry of Health Chief Advisors, the Health New Zealand Interim Chief Medical Officer and Medicines Adverse Reactions Committee members.
- Three applications were received from experts with relevant expertise.

- All three applications were presented to the Director-General of Health to decide on a preferred candidate subject to checks.
- The appointment has not been made yet, so there is no appointment letter.
- The membership of the MARC is published at the above link, which will be updated once an appointment has been made.

I have identified two documents within scope of your request. All documents are itemised in Appendix 1 and copies of the documents are enclosed. Where information is withheld under section 9 of the Act, I have considered the countervailing public interest in release in making this decision and consider that it does not outweigh the need to withhold at this time.

I trust this information fulfils your request. If you wish to discuss any aspect of your request with us, including this decision, please feel free to contact the OIA Services Team on: oiagr@health.govt.nz.

Under section 28(3) of the Act, you have the right to ask the Ombudsman to review any decisions made under this request. The Ombudsman may be contacted by email at: info@ombudsman.parliament.nz or by calling 0800 802 602.

Please note that this response, with your personal details removed, may be published on the Manatū Hauora website at: www.health.govt.nz/about-ministry/information-releases/responses-official-information-act-requests.

Nāku noa, nā



Chris James
Group Manager
Medsafe

Appendix 1: List of documents for release

#	Date	Document details	Decision on release
1	October 2024	Web Advertisement	Released in full.
2	3 December 2024	Appointment letter	Some information withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the Act, to protect the privacy of natural persons.