

7 February 2025

John Luke
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Our ref: OIA 117640

Tēnā koe John

Official Information Act request: Ministerial Advisory Group (MAG) for retail crime

Thank you for your email of 19 November 2024, to the Ministry of Justice (the Ministry) requesting further information OIA 116412, under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act). Specifically, you requested:

- 1. I noted, " The Chair of the MAG, Sunny Kaushal, also reviewed applications." How has the chair appointment was made? It looks like the Chair role was already confirmed and determined before this expression of interest process.*
- 2. Also, "In response to your request, the process for appointing the members of the MAG on victims of retail crime was through a targeted expression of interest process." Can you confirm what do you means by targeted expression of interest process, are there any database you are using and are you able to send me the list of Communities and organisations you have sent the email requesting EOI to?*
- 3. How many meetings this Ministerial Advisory Group for retail crime had so far? Can you please supply all the available agenda and full meeting minutes for this group.*

Your questions have been numbered to ease of response.

On 17 December 2024 the Ministry contacted you, advising that a response to your request is being prepared. However, due to the need for external consultation, the time limit was extended under 15A of the Act.

In response to question 1 of your request, the Chair of the Ministerial Advisory Group Retail Crime (Advisory Group) was a Ministerial appointment by the Minister for Justice and Associate Minister for Justice, on 26 June 2024. The Chair was appointed prior to the expression of interest process commencing for the remaining members of the Advisory.

In response to question 2 of your request, a targeted expression of interest process involves reaching out to specific communities and groups, who fit the selection criteria, inviting them to submit an EOI. The offices for the Minister for Justice and Associate Minister for Justice received enquiries about the Advisory Group once the announcement was made on 11 July 2024. Individuals who made enquiries were sent the expression of interest form once it was released. No specific database was used.

To maintain the privacy of those who applied for a position in the group, I am unable to provide you with the specific names of individuals, communities or organisations who submitted a response. I am therefore withholding this information under section 9(2)(a) of the Act, to protect the privacy of natural persons. However, I can advise that the applications fell into at least one of the following broad categories:

- people with extensive retail experience
- members of governance boards
- CE/CEOs of retail sector peak bodies
- employees of large retail organisations with experience in crime prevention, and
- business owners in the security and crime prevention spaces.

In response to question 3, please see the document table below which details the information in scope of your request. Some information has been withheld under the following provisions of the Act:

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

The Advisory Group has had five meetings since the members were announced in September 2024. The agendas of each of these meetings are attached, there are no meeting minutes in scope of this request. The meetings were held on the following dates:

- Tuesday 3 September 2024, 9.15am to 10.15am
- Monday 16 September 2024, 10am to 12pm
- Wednesday 2 October 2024 4pm to 6pm
- Thursday 7 November 2024 1pm to 4 pm
- Thursday 5 December 2024 1pm to 4 pm.

Please note that this response, with your personal details removed, may be published on the Ministry website at: [Official Information Act responses | New Zealand Ministry of Justice](#)

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



Jono Weir
Director, Office of the Deputy Secretary, Policy

Documents in scope of your request

No.	Date	Document type	Title	Decision on release
1.	3 September 2024	Agenda	Victims of Retail Crime Ministerial Advisory Group Meeting with Ministers Goldsmith and McKee	Released in full
2.	16 September 2024	Agenda	Ministerial Advisory Group 1 st meeting	Released in full
3.	2 October 2024	Agenda	Ministerial Advisory Group Members Meeting	Released in full
4.	7 November 2024	Agenda	Ministerial Advisory Group Members Meeting	Some information withheld under section 9(2)(a) and 9(2)(f)(iv)
5.	5 December 2024	Agenda	Ministerial Advisory Group Members Meeting	Some Information withheld under section 9(2)(a)