

Rt Hon Winston Peters

Deputy Prime Minister

Minister of Foreign Affairs

Minister for Racing

Minister for Rail



10 February 2025

John Luke

fyi-request-29610-e7410556@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear John Luke

Thank you for your email of 19 December 2024 in which you request the following under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA):

"I noted, [https://urldefense.com/v3/ https://gazette.govt.nz/notice/id/2024-go6586 ;!!Asq5-8xVch3Req!ugNxFZxKmrCHU7InfS9L6G3mWGXhJ7iEoiVyYPJu0knoYkpmZpxvJXEF RDkQiF8uS6VZC9GUt3TjFKaval6f-V0tYu54gyWllia7U14B9I7\\$](https://urldefense.com/v3/https://gazette.govt.nz/notice/id/2024-go6586;!!Asq5-8xVch3Req!ugNxFZxKmrCHU7InfS9L6G3mWGXhJ7iEoiVyYPJu0knoYkpmZpxvJXEFRDkQiF8uS6VZC9GUt3TjFKaval6f-V0tYu54gyWllia7U14B9I7$)

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. May I also seek a copy of the ad went out to public and the appointment letter sent to the appointee (not need to be this round, any previous one as an example would be ok), feel free to redact any personal information. Further I would like to understand your selection process of appointing Officers of the Government of the Ross Dependency. Please also supply bio of each officers appointed, if you have one"

There is no public nominations process for appointing Officers of the Government of the Ross Dependency. Consequently, your request is refused under section 18(e) of the OIA, as the information requested does not exist.

The Ross Dependency Regulations 1923 enables the Governor-General (as Governor of the Ross Dependency) to appoint individuals known as "Officers of the Government of the Ross Dependency". The Regulations empower Officers to do such things necessary to ensure compliance with the laws in force in the Ross Dependency.

The appointments are made regularly to ensure that the New Zealand Government maintains a lawfully appointed presence in the Ross Dependency. To ensure there is always at least one Officer present in the Ross Dependency, appointments are made to cover the summer and winter seasons.

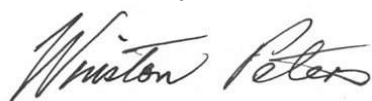
As the Officers must be present in the Ross Dependency to fulfil their role, there is no call for public nominations. Antarctica New Zealand nominate individuals who will work at Scott Base for at least one summer or winter season. The Ministry of Justice approves the nominated individuals. The Minister of Foreign Affairs recommends them to the Governor-General, who signs the Officers warrants. The Gazette Notice contains the same text as the warrant the Governor-General signs. The appointed Officers are sworn in by the Ministry of Justice.

Biographies for the Officers do not exist (section 18(e) of the OIA refers). However, their current job titles within Antarctica New Zealand are below:

- Martin Robert Meldrum, Engineering Supervisor
- Blaise Te Pihinga Maria Pehi-Neho, Winter Medic
- Palepa Josephine Porebski, Summer Medic, and
- Jonathan Gilbert Leitch, Operations Solutions Manager.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this decision by contacting www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or freephone 0800 802 602.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Winston Peters', written in a cursive style.

Rt Hon Winston Peters
Minister of Foreign Affairs