

14 February 2025

John Luke
fyi-request-29813-2c21a9ee@requests.fyi.org.nz

Our ref: OIA 118918

Tēnā koe Mr Luke

Official Information Act request: Community Magistrates

Thank you for your email of 20 January 2025 to the Ministry of Justice (the Ministry), requesting under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), information relating to expressions of interest sought for the appointment of Community Magistrates. 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 from the public and how many you have received from other nominating agencies such as TPK or Ministry of women etc for each location of your role (separate to Auckland, Hamilton and Whangarei). May I also seek a copy of the appointment letter sent to the previous appointee (one example is sufficient), feel free to redact any personal information. Also do you issue warrant card to the Community Magistrates, if so, an example of the warrant card would be much appreciated. Further, how many people you want to recruit for this round.

I noted, "After the interviews and prior to any appointment being made, selected applicants will be required to undertake a structured course of pre-appointment training. Selection for this training does not constitute appointment as a Community Magistrate." How many applicants usually will be select for this course training. E.g. in the last round when you want to appoint one member and how many you will select for training? Also, in the current round how many you are anticipate selecting for training.

I have separated your request into parts and will be responding to your question in turn.

1. "...how you called for public nomination and on what platform..."

Calls for expression of interest were made via Capital Letter, The Law Association, LawPoints and the Ministry's website here: [Statutory vacancies | New Zealand Ministry of Justice](#). Nominations were sought by the Associate Minister of Justice to caucus colleagues by way of letter.

2. "...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 each location of your role (separate to Auckland, Hamilton and Whangarei)."

28 applications have been received. No applications have been received from Te Puni Kōkiri, Ministry for Women or any other similar organisations.

3. "...a copy of the appointment letter sent to the previous appointee..."

A copy of an example letter of appointment is **attached** to this letter as document 1 and released to you with some information withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the Act to protect the privacy of natural persons.

4. "...do you issue warrant card to the Community Magistrates, if so, an example of the warrant card would be much appreciated."

Warrants are issued to people appointed as Community Magistrates. A copy of an example warrant is **attached** to this letter as document 2 and released to you with some information withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the Act to protect the privacy of natural persons.

In withholding information under section 9 of the Act, the Ministry has considered the public interest and does not consider that it outweighs withholding the information at this time.

5. "...how many people you want to recruit for this round."

The Ministry hopes to be able to appoint three new Community Magistrates. Ideally each to be appointed to be based in Auckland, Hamilton and Whangarei.

6. "How many applicants usually will be select for this course training. E.g. in the last round when you want to appoint one member and how many you will select for training?"

Selection for training is typically made after interviewing applicants. The number of Community Magistrates being sought for appointment will determine the minimum number of applicants that are likely to be selected for training. The number could be larger or smaller based on determination of applicant suitability for the position post-interview.

A previous appointment round sought the appointment of three Community Magistrates. Five candidates were selected for training.

7. "...in the current round how many you are anticipate selecting for training."

A minimum of three people are likely to be selected for training (for reasons stated in the above paragraphs). However, this will be determined at the conclusion of the interview stage of the appointment process. It is possible that more or less could be selected.

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: [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

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Wayne Newall', with a horizontal line underneath.

Wayne Newall
Manager, Appointments and Specialist Functions