

13 May 2025

John Luke
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Ref: OIA 121311

Tēnā koe John

Official Information Act request: Community Magistrates

Thank you for your email of 14 April 2025, seeking an update to our recent response (OIA 119569) regarding Community Magistrates, under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act). Specifically, you requested:

Thank you for your recent reply- Ref: OIA 119569

Within your reply, I noted "Please refer to the list below, which shows the total number of submitted expressions of interest for Auckland, Hamilton, and Whangarei. Please note that some candidates may have expressed interest in multiple locations:

- Auckland: 19*
- Hamilton: 9*
- Whangarei: 5"*

Can you please let me know how many you have shortlisted and interviewed for each location. For interview, do you have standard interview sheet? if so please provide a copy of it. I understand for some roles, you have standard interview sheet and questions that candidate need to answer.

...

May I ask if you know will candidate receiving any payment if select to attend this one week long training?

When you expect this appointment round will be finished or when you anticipate that you can submit the recommendation to the Minister?

Candidate shortlisting

While interviews have recently been held for the Community Magistrate roles, the process is not yet complete, and the appointing Minister is yet to make any decision about candidates who may proceed to the next stage of the appointment round.

The Minister has a range of options subject to receipt of the advice of the interview panel and to disclose the numbers under consideration at this point may compromise that. Accordingly, this information is withheld under section 9(2)(f)(iv) of the Act, to protect confidentiality of advice tendered by Ministers and officials.

Interview questions

There is no standard set of questions for the Community Magistrate role, but the same questions are put to all the candidates in any given round of appointments. Releasing the set of questions used in this or any other role (especially those that are regularly recruited to) could have the impact of giving future candidates an advantage when preparing for interview. This information must therefore be withheld under section 9(2)(k) of the Act, to prevent the disclosure or use of official information for improper gain or improper advantage.

Training programme

In addition to covering expenses for flights/travel, parking, accommodation and meals, recent practice has been to additionally compensate attendees in light of the significant time commitment required to attend the pre-selection training.

Appointment decision date

It is not possible to say at this time when the appointments will be finalised, or the final recommendation made to the Minister. This will depend on the timing of the Minister's consideration of the panel report and the arrangements for candidates to attend the next stage of the appointment process.

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

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's 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



Edrick Child
Chief Legal Counsel