

6 October 2025

John Luke
fyi-request-32272-01a2a855@requests.fyi.org.nz

Our ref: OIA 125912

Tēnā koe John

Official Information Act request: Justice of the Peace

I refer to your email of 9 September 2025 to the Minister of Justice, Hon Paul Goldsmith, requesting information under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act).

On 12 September 2025, your request was transferred in full under section 14(b)(i) of the Act to the Ministry of Justice (the Ministry), for response. Specifically, you requested:

I am writing to request clarification on the guidelines related to using the term "Justice of the Peace candidate"

I have noted that a candidate has described herself as a "Justice of the Peace candidate" in her statement. While I have seen candidates previously refer to themselves as "Justice of the Peace," the term "Justice of the Peace candidate" is unfamiliar to me. I am unsure whether this wording is accurate, or if it could be considered misleading or a potential misrepresentation of her current role or status. Could you please provide the relevant guidelines or policies that address the use of such terminology? I understand this request is made under the Official Information Act. However, if you believe this issue raises immediate concerns about the accuracy of the candidate's statement, I respectfully ask that you consider contacting her directly to help uphold the integrity of the election and protect the public interest. Yan Zhang is running for election in the Onepoto Ward I'm a solo mother raising a bright neurodivergent child in Titahi Bay, a business analyst and Justice of the Peace candidate

Under the Official Information Act, I would also like to seek clarification on her current official status, and whether she holds the title of Justice of the Peace. If not what does Justice of the Peace candidate means? Can I call myself a Justice of the Peace candidate ? what is the guideline or requirement for someone to call her/him Justice of the Peace candidate.

In response to your request, I can advise that there are no guidelines, policies, or legislation that address the use of the term "Justice of the Peace candidate." The Ministry does not regulate how individuals may describe themselves in this regard.

I note that Ms Zhang is not currently a Justice of the Peace. She has been nominated for consideration by her local Member of Parliament. That nomination is at an early stage in the appointment process, and no decision has been made.

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 of the Act. The Office of the Ombudsman may be contacted by phone on: 0800 802 602, by email at: info@ombudsman.parliament.nz, or via the webform: [Make a complaint \(for members of the public\) | Ombudsman New Zealand](#).

Nāku noa, nā

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

Wayne Newall
Manager, Appointments and Specialist Functions