



JCOIA-520

John Luke

By email: [fyi-request-34201-fa5e3b18@requests.fyi.org.nz](mailto:fyi-request-34201-fa5e3b18@requests.fyi.org.nz)

Dear John

## REQUEST UNDER THE OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT 1982

I refer to your email of 22 March 2026, which seeks information relating to the recent appointment of two members to the New Zealand Council of Legal Education (the **NZCLE**). Your email reads:

I noted, Appointments to the New Zealand Council of Legal Education  
[https://urldefense.com/v3/\\_\\_https://gazette.govt.nz/notice/id/2026-go1305\\_\\_;!!Asq5-8xVch3Reg!rknpluZu6VV8xqDhECpW-LuirB67kzduggRkElm71GmnP6TQAHsdRMN7HmSTlsBApaCweHJmgcSIVlONxD4hKyK8QcvvX6xsv7toBqcP-Y8JA\\$](https://urldefense.com/v3/__https://gazette.govt.nz/notice/id/2026-go1305__;!!Asq5-8xVch3Reg!rknpluZu6VV8xqDhECpW-LuirB67kzduggRkElm71GmnP6TQAHsdRMN7HmSTlsBApaCweHJmgcSIVlONxD4hKyK8QcvvX6xsv7toBqcP-Y8JA$)

May I ask how you called for public nomination and on what platform you have call for public nominations e.g. govt.jobs website. A copy of your ad and pay rate for members of the New Zealand Council of Legal Education as well. Also, how many applications you have received for each of the role from the public and how many you have received from other nominating agencies such as TPK or Ministry of women etc for your role. How many you have shortlisted and how many you have interviewed. Also, can I request to view the appointment letter if there is one sent to the previous appointee. I am happy for you to remove all the personal information.

### Request for information held as Law Officer

Information has been identified within the scope of your request, but it is information relating to the performance of Law Officer functions. The Ombudsman has previously determined that information relating to Law Officer functions of the Attorney-General falls outside the scope of the Official Information Act 1982.<sup>1</sup> I consider, however that release of this information would be in the public interest.

<sup>1</sup> See Sir Brian Elwood *Request for legal advice provided to the Attorney-General by Ministry of Justice Justice—Attorney-General not subject to Act* (February 2019, Case No W41067). This can be accessed by visiting: [www.ombudsman.parliament.nz/resources/request-crown-law-office-legal-advice-given-minister](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz/resources/request-crown-law-office-legal-advice-given-minister).

### **Appointment of members of the NZCLE**

Membership of the NZCLE is determined in accordance with s 282 of the Lawyers and Conveyancers Act 2006 (the **Act**). That section requires nominations for appointment to be made by relevant bodies/officers. The recent appointments were recommended for appointment by the Council of the New Zealand Law Students' Association. After considering this recommendation, the Governor-General was advised to make the recommended appointments.

The nomination process stipulated in the Act means that vacancies and pay rates for these roles are not advertised and the Attorney-General does not shortlist candidates or interview applicants.

The former Attorney-General did not write to the appointees to advise them of their appointment but did inform the NZCLE and the appointments were notified in the Gazette.

### **Concluding matters**

In accordance with s 19 of the Official Information Act 1982, I advise you have a right, by way of complaint under s 28(3) of that Act, to seek an investigation and review of this decision by the Ombudsman. Relevant information about how to make a complaint is available at [www.ombudsman.parliament.nz](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz) or freephone 0800 802 602.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'CB', written in a cursive style.

Chris Bishop  
**Attorney-General**