

11 May 2026

John Luke
fyi-request-34477-54bd2495@requests.fyi.org.nz

Our ref: OIA 131751

Tēnā koe John

Official Information Act Request: Statutory Vacancies

Thank you for your email of 12 April 2026 requesting under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), information relating to statutory vacancies. Specifically, you have asked:

1. *"I note from several of my previous OIA requests that you currently have a number of statutory appointments under consideration. Could you please provide a list of those appointments that are still in progress, along with the stage each has reached (for example, shortlisted, interviewed, or progressing to APH)?"*
2. *"I have also noticed that roles such as District Court Judge, Environment Court Judge, and High Court Judge consistently appear on your recruitment page. Could you please clarify the reason for this? Are you continuously recruiting for these positions, and if so, how many vacancies are you currently seeking to fill?"*

For ease of reference, I numbered your request and have responded to each part below.

In response to part one of your request, the appointments currently under action, along with the stage each has reached are listed below.

- Chief Community Magistrate. A briefing with warrant of appointment is with the appointing Minister.
- Community Magistrates. A briefing relating to taking proposed appointments to the Appointments and Honours Committee (APH) is pending signature from the appointing Minister.
- Acting Community Magistrate. A briefing with warrant of appointment is with the appointing Minister.
- Visiting Justices – Appointments and Reappointments. The Minister is yet to approve the appointment/reappointment process.

- Land Valuation Tribunal – Reappointments. This is in the early stages. A briefing is being prepared to send to the appointing Minister outlining options for the reappointment process.
- International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes – Designation to Panels. A briefing relating to taking proposed appointments to APH is pending signature from the appointing Minister.
- Firearms Safety NZ. Advertising is underway for the Chief Executive role.
- Deputy Legal Complaints Review Officer. Interviews have been held and a recommendation is with the appointing Minister.
- Disputes Tribunal (three appointments). The Post-interview Panel report is currently with the appointing Minister.
- Criminal Case Review Commission. The appointing Minister has been briefed on the upcoming expiry of the appointment of a member. The next steps are under consideration.
- Electoral Commission. The appointing Minister will shortly consult the House on a proposal to appoint additional members of the Commission.
- Customs Appeal Authority. The appointing Minister's directions are needed on the review of the appointment of the current Authority.
- Taxation Appeal Authority. The appointing Minister's directions are needed on the review of the appointment of the current Authority.
- Public Protection Order Review Panel. A briefing is being prepared for the appointing Minister about the need to fill a vacancy on the Review Panel.
- Relief Coroner. The Attorney-General was briefed on the upcoming expiry of six relief coroner appointments.

In response to part two of your request, we maintain standing expression of interest registers on behalf of the Attorney-General for District, Environment, Employment, Associate High Court and High Court Judge roles.

There are no vacancies presently being recruited to in those areas but from time to time the relevant Head of Bench, in conjunction with the Attorney-General, recommend candidates for interview when vacancies arise (typically due to pending retirements or the occasional resignation).

In anticipation of any further requests related to this topic, it is useful to note the judicial expression of interest registers, and any documents related to judicial appointments, are held on behalf of the Attorney-General in the capacity of Senior Law Officer of the Crown.

The Ombudsman has held that such matters are outside the scope of the Official Information Act (Case W44280 refers).

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 horizontal line underneath.

Wayne Newall
Manager, Appointments and Specialist Functions