



16 June 2026

Tēnā koe John Luke

Official Information Act request

Thank you for your email of 17 April 2026 to the Ministry of Social Development (the Ministry) requesting information about the appointment process for the Benefit Review Committee - Auckland Region.

I have considered your request under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act).

The Ministry recruited for the *Committee Fee Members, Benefit Review Committee - Auckland Region* role publicly through the New Zealand Herald, the Seek website, jobs.govt.nz, and the Ministry's Job Platform.

Please refer to the attached **Appendix** which provides the following resources:

- The New Zealand Herald Public Notices, dated 13 April 2026.
- A copy of the *Committee Fee Members, Benefit Review Committee - Auckland Region* job advertisement as it appeared on other platforms.¹

Some information has been withheld as it is out of scope of your request.

You have asked about the pay rates for the *Committee Fee Members, Benefit Review Committee - Auckland Region* role. The current rates are:

- \$131.26 for 0 to 3 hours (gross - including 3 hours)
- \$262.52 for more than 3 hours (gross)

The Ministry has received 74 applications for the *Committee Fee Members, Benefit Review Committee - Auckland Region* role. The part of your request that asks for how many were received from other nominating agencies is refused under section 18(e) as the information does not exist.

As at 19 May 2026, there were 23 shortlisted applicants for the role, and no interviews had taken place at that time. Please get in touch with us if you are seeking an update on the number of interviews and we will consider your request.

You have asked how many vacancies the Ministry is looking to fill for this round for the *Committee Fee Members, Benefit Review Committee - Auckland Region* role. The number of appointments will be based on regional demand. For example, as at 18 April 2024, there were 57 Community Representatives spread throughout

¹ Please note that there were some slight differences between the copy used on the Ministry platform, the jobs.govt.nz website, and the newspaper publications. The variations were mainly due to word count constraints and format requirements for print media, which meant that the Ministry had to adapt the advertisement to fit within those specific limitations.

the Ministry's 11 Service Delivery regions. To ensure adequate cover, each region has a pool of representatives that can be called upon to help ensure the Benefit Review Committee can consider reviews in a timely manner. As at 19 May 2026, there are 73 Community Representatives.

I will be publishing this decision letter, with your personal details deleted, on the Ministry's website in due course.

If you wish to discuss this matter further, please contact OIA_Requests@msd.govt.nz.

If you are not satisfied with my decision on your request, you have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or 0800 802 602.

Ngā mihi nui

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Anna Graham', written in a cursive style.

Anna Graham
General Manager
Ministerial and Executive Services