



**Te Tāhuhu o
te Mātauranga**
Ministry of Education

John Luke

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1 July 2026

Tēnā koe John

OIA: GEMS-48151 – Appointment to the Board of the Tertiary Education Commission

Thank you for your email to Hon Penny Simmonds, Minister for Tertiary Education, on 13 May 2026. As you are aware, on 14 May 2026, the Minister's office transferred your request to the Ministry of Education (the Ministry). The request is as follows:

I noted, Appointment to the Board of the Tertiary Education Commission

[https://urldefense.com/v3/__https://gazette.govt.nz/notice/id/2026-go2298__;!!Asq5-8xVch3Reg!rYyvC_K6rV3MdPT12zhEOeVWfUaR8pLkq2r68l0JJrFpxHYXuSS0yYpf3ZLIR4ZhM5ciZikWOtkQKsTAtZ3fX_iZqkKjjsCT8QHLYym_CS-yYw\\$](https://urldefense.com/v3/__https://gazette.govt.nz/notice/id/2026-go2298__;!!Asq5-8xVch3Reg!rYyvC_K6rV3MdPT12zhEOeVWfUaR8pLkq2r68l0JJrFpxHYXuSS0yYpf3ZLIR4ZhM5ciZikWOtkQKsTAtZ3fX_iZqkKjjsCT8QHLYym_CS-yYw$)

- 1. How you called for public nomination and on what platform you have call for public nominations e.g. govt.jobs website.*
- 2. A copy of your ad as well and pay rate.*
- 3. 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.*
- 4. How many you have shortlisted and how many you have interviewed.*
- 5. I request to view the appointment letter if there is one sent to the Michelle Elizabeth Findlater. I am happy for you to remove any relevant personal information.*
- 6. Besides meeting fees, do they receive any other benefits, such as expense reimbursement (If so, may I request to view your expense reimbursement policy in relation to your board member), a laptop, ID card, phone, or similar provisions?*

Your request has been considered under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act).

Regarding **parts one and two** of your request, the Minister's intention to make appointments to the Board of the Tertiary Education Commission (TEC) was

published across late 2025 and early 2026. This information was provided to you in our response of 26 February 2026 [GEMS-46635 refers], alongside the advertisement and pay rate. Please refer to the Appendix of that response for further details.

In response to **parts three and four** of your request, I can confirm that a total of seven candidates were identified through an Expressions of Interest (Eoi) process, and two candidates were identified by Hon Penny Simmonds. All candidates were shortlisted and considered, and two were interviewed. A nominating agency endorsed two of the candidates who submitted expressions of interest.

In our February 2026 response, we advised that there were two vacancies on the Board. Decisions have since been made on both appointments. In response to **parts five and six** of your request, and in the interests of transparency, we are releasing both appointment letters in part as **Appendix A**, for Scott Haines JP and Michelle Findlater, with some information withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the Act, to protect the privacy of natural persons.

As required under section 9(1) of the Act, I have considered the public interest in releasing the information withheld. I do not consider that the public interest considerations favouring the release of this information are sufficient to outweigh the need to withhold it at this time.

Both appointments were announced via *Gazette* notices, as follows:

- Scott Haines JP appointed on 10 March: <https://gazette.govt.nz/notice/id/2026-go1333>.
- Michelle Findlater appointed on 29 April: <https://gazette.govt.nz/notice/id/2026-go2298>.

As noted in the letters of appointment, Board members are entitled to be paid 'reasonable and actual' expenses to attend meetings and perform their duties and responsibilities as Board members.

Thank you again for your email. You have the right to ask the Ombudsman to review my decision on your request, in accordance with section 28 of the Act. You can do this by writing to info@ombudsman.parliament.nz or to Office of the Ombudsman, PO Box 10152, Wellington 6143.

Nāku noa, nā



Jennifer Heersping
Director, Monitoring and Appointments
Te Pou Kaupapahere | Policy