

Hon Paul Goldsmith

Minister for Arts, Culture and Heritage
Minister of Justice
Minister for Media and Communications
Minister for Pacific Peoples
Minister for the Public Service and Digitising Government
Minister for Treaty of Waitangi Negotiations



01 JUL 2026

John Luke
fyi-request-34872-c982b8d5@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear John

Official Information Act request: Electoral Commission appointments

Thank you for your email of 7 June 2026. Under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), you requested:

*I noted, Appointment of Members of the Electoral Commission
[https://urldefense.com/v3/__https://gazette.govt.nz/notice/id/2026-go2965__;!!Asq5-8xVch3Reg!u2eCe6XiGoXXXBkkQWoGN0TymdFVKzq_TJ9GfuJNz3Qjbz7yGFJo0sWnZmp_mJQfpywMwoI9SMQNNQ3whpmBmOB510spji-ygW3dCKst1IGtZOIA\\$](https://urldefense.com/v3/__https://gazette.govt.nz/notice/id/2026-go2965__;!!Asq5-8xVch3Reg!u2eCe6XiGoXXXBkkQWoGN0TymdFVKzq_TJ9GfuJNz3Qjbz7yGFJo0sWnZmp_mJQfpywMwoI9SMQNNQ3whpmBmOB510spji-ygW3dCKst1IGtZOIA$)*

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 as well and pay rate. 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 Susan Elizabeth Elliott, Murray David Jack and David Brian O'Connor. I am happy for you to remove any relevant personal information.

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?

In response to part one of your request, I can advise that in this instance the positions were not advertised. The Electoral Amendment Bill, which was given Royal Assent on 19 December 2025, amended the Electoral Act 1993 to increase the membership of the Electoral Commission (the Commission), allowing for the appointment of up to seven members. This was to strengthen the board's resilience and capability and enhance the Commission's capacity to manage the various challenges to election delivery.

With my support, the Commission's Chair anticipated this legislative change and, in July 2025 appointed Ms Elliott, Mr Jack and Mr O'Connor to act as special advisors to the Commission. These individuals were identified for their specialist skills. I was satisfied that their qualifications and breadth of experience made them ideal appointees and I was therefore satisfied that an advertising process was not necessary.

In response to part two of your request, please refer to the **attached** letter. Some information has been withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the Act to protect the privacy of natural persons.

In accordance with section 9(1) of the Act, I have considered the public interest in making available the information being withheld and determined that it does not outweigh the need to withhold the information at this time.

In response to part three of your request, I am not aware of the individual circumstances of these members. However, it is standard practice for members of Crown Entities to be reimbursed for expenses when needed, most often for travel to and from meetings. It is also standard practice for them to be provided with ID cards and, if necessary, the technology to communicate with fellow board members and staff.

If you are not satisfied with this response, you have the right to make a complaint to the Office of the Ombudsman under section 28(3) of the Act. The Ombudsman may be contacted by email to info@ombudsman.parliament.nz or by phone on 0800 802 602.

Yours sincerely

Hon Paul Goldsmith
Minister of Justice

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Paul Goldsmith', written over the printed name and title.