

6 July 2026

Ref: OIAD-9299

Tēnā koe John

Thank you for your request to the office of Hon James Meager, received 16 June 2026, in which you asked for:

I noted, Appointments to the Game Animal Council <https://gazette.govt.nz/notice/id/2026-go3166>

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 Callum Sheridan, Matthew Clarke and Hon Paula Bennett. 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?

On 17 June, your request was transferred to the Department of Conservation (the Department) for response and considered under the Official Information Act 1982 (the OIA).

Your questions and our responses are listed below:

1. *May I ask how you called for public nomination and on what platform you have call for public nominations e.g. govt.jobs website.*

The Department undertook a public nomination process for the appointment of up to four members to the Game Animal Council (the Council) on behalf of the Minister for Hunting and Fishing (the Minister). The Department advertised these publicly through advertisements in five major newspapers, the Department's website and social media accounts, the Ministry for Ethnic Communities, and the Ministry for Women.

2. *How many applications you have received for each of the role from the public*
17 nominations were received from the public.

3. *How many you have received from other nominating agencies such as TPK or Ministry of women etc for your role.*

No nominations were received from agencies.

4. *How many you have shortlisted and how many you have interviewed.*

Four nominees were shortlisted by the Department, for consideration by the Minister. Interviews were not conducted.

5. *Can I request to view the appointment letter if there is one sent to the Callum Sheridan, Matthew Clarke and Hon Paula Bennett.*

Copies are attached of the draft appointment letters the Department provided to the Minister on 3 June 2026, for Matthew Clarke, Callum Sheridan, Hon Paula Bennett, Jim Goodall, and Emeritus Professor Bruce McKenzie. Personal information is withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the OIA, to protect the privacy of natural persons.

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?*

Council members may receive reimbursement for travel expenses incurred while performing their duties, in accordance with the Fees and Travelling Allowances Act 1951. Members do not receive any additional benefits.

You are entitled to seek an investigation and review of my decision by writing to an Ombudsman as provided by section 28(3) of the OIA.

Please note that this letter (with your personal details removed) and attached documents may be published on DOC's website.

Nāku noa, nā



Andrew Martin
Acting Director Governance and Government Services
Department of Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai