



17 July 2026

John Luke

fyi-request-34935-1014edf1@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear John

Response to your request for official information

Thank you for your request under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) on 22 June 2026 to the Office of Hon Matt Doocey, Minister for Mental Health and Associate Minister of Health. Each part of your request is responded to in turn.

“Appointments to the Mental Health and Wellbeing Commission – Te Hiringa Mahara
[www.urldefense.com/v3/ https://gazette.govt.nz/notice/id/2026-go3421 ;!!Asq5-8xVch3Reg!uAwvseA7iujl17cqpnUbelK6 JuvqztMwBgqllrvcljdJzkdcdgCqqe7393IE3J5B_FiBLsl6YVd_e5jukea1Ps9zmEFPMU1PlmilqpRAfbJ\\$](https://www.urldefense.com/v3/https://gazette.govt.nz/notice/id/2026-go3421;!!Asq5-8xVch3Reg!uAwvseA7iujl17cqpnUbelK6JuvqztMwBgqllrvcljdJzkdcdgCqqe7393IE3J5B_FiBLsl6YVd_e5jukea1Ps9zmEFPMU1PlmilqpRAfbJ$)
”

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.

The Chair was appointed through an expression of interest process limited to existing members of the Commission. Accordingly, no advertisements were placed on government recruitment platforms and no public nominations were sought or received for the Chair role.

Following the appointment of an existing member as Chair, a member vacancy arose on the Commission. Dr Kelly Feng had been identified through a previous recruitment process that had been publicly advertised. She was therefore considered for the resulting member vacancy. Dr Barbara Disley and Dr Kelly Feng were both interviewed as part of the appointments process.

The terms of reference for Mental Health and Wellbeing Commission Board members is itemised in Appendix 1 and provided to you in full.

Remuneration for members of the Board is set by the Remuneration Authority under section 47(1)(b)(i) of the Crown Entities Act 2004.

Also, can I request to view the appointment letter if there is one sent to the Dr Barbara Disley and Dr Kelly Feng. I am happy for you to remove any relevant personal information.

These documents are itemised in Appendix 1 and copies of the documents are enclosed. Where information is withheld under section 9 of the Act, I have considered the countervailing public interest in release in making this decision and consider that it does not outweigh the need to withhold at this time.

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?"

This Office does not hold information in scope of this part of your request. As mentioned above remuneration arrangements for the Chair and members are set by the Remuneration Authority. Any other benefits, such as expense reimbursement, are set by the MHWC.

Under section 28(3) of the Act, you have the right to ask the Ombudsman to review any decisions made under this request. The Ombudsman may be contacted by email at: info@ombudsman.parliament.nz or by calling 0800 802 602.

Yours sincerely



James Watson-Black
Ministerial Advisor

Appendix 1: List of documents for release

#	Date	Document details	Decision on release
1	23 April 2026	Letter: Dr Barbara Disley, Appointment as Chair of the Board of the Mental Health and Wellbeing Commission – Te Hiringa Mahara	Some information is withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the Act, to protect the privacy of natural persons
2		Letter: Dr Kelly Feng, Appointment to the Board of the Mental Health and Wellbeing Commission – Te Hiringa Mahara	
3		Terms of Reference for Te Hiringa Mahara Mental Health and Wellbeing Commission Board members	Released in full.