

13 July 2026

DOIA26-066

John Luke

fyi-request-34936-ef3b9ee7@requests.fyi.org.nz

Tēnā koe John

I refer to your request received by Hon Paul Goldsmith's office on 22 June 2026, which was transferred to the Ministry for Culture and Heritage on 24 June, regarding appointments to the Museum of New Zealand Te Papa Tongarewa (Te Papa) Board. Your request has been considered under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA). You requested the following information:

1. *How the Ministry called for public nomination and on what platforms.*
2. *A copy of the advertisement for the vacancy and the pay rate*
3. *How many applications the Ministry received, including how many from the public and how many from other nominating agencies.*
4. *How many applicants have been shortlisted and how many interviewed.*
5. *A copy of the appointment letter sent to James Belich and Richard Douglas, with personal information removed.*
6. *Detail of any other benefits such as expense reimbursement that members receive besides meeting fees.*

As advised to you by email on 29 June 2026, we have transferred point six of your request to Te Papa under section 14 of the OIA, as this information is more closely connected to their functions. You can expect a response to this part of your request from Te Papa by 29 July 2026.

Appointments to the Te Papa Board are made in accordance with section 10 of the New Zealand of New Zealand Te Papa Tongarewa Act 1992 and the Crown Entities Act 2004. As these Acts do not require a public call for nominations, no public advertisement was created and no applications were received.

Instead, candidates were selected from several sources, including the Ministry for Culture and Heritage nominations register, which comprises members of the public who have expressed interest in Crown board roles, individuals considered suitable from previous nominations, and nominations from caucus and coalition party colleagues. For these appointments, the Ministry received nominations from the following government nominating agencies:

- five from Ministry for Women
- six from Ministry for Disabled People.

Five candidates were shortlisted and three were interviewed during this appointment process.

Te Papa board members are paid in accordance with the Cabinet Office Circular CO (25) 2: *Cabinet Fees Framework for members appointed to bodies in which the Crown has an interest* (Cabinet Fees Framework). Te Papa is classified as a Group 3a level

4 body and details of reimbursement entitlements are publicly available in the Framework: [CO \(25\) 2: Cabinet Fees Framework for members appointed to bodies in which the Crown has an interest | Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet \(DPMC\)](#). The members board fee is detailed in the letter of appointment attached.

Information being released

Item	Date	Document Description
1	03-06-2026	Letter and Appointment Notice – James Belich
2	03-06-2026	Letter and Appointment Notice – Richard Douglas
3	03-06-2026	Letter and Appointment Notice – Wendy Nelson

Personal information has been removed from the enclosed documents under section 9(2)(a) of the OIA. For completeness, we have included material for the third member, Wendy Nelson, who was also appointed to the Board in this appointment round.

If you wish to discuss this decision with us, please feel free to contact oiia@mch.govt.nz.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this decision. Information about how to make a complaint is available via www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or freephone 0800 802 602.

Nāku noa, nā



Brendan Gage

Pou Mataaho o Te Aka - Deputy Secretary, Policy, Performance & Insights