

11 April 2018

Molly McCarthy
via www.FYI.org.nz

Email: fyi-request-6990-0e46614a@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Ms McCarthy

On 16 February 2018, the Reserve Bank refused your request for gender and ethnicity data on the candidates for the role of Reserve Bank Governor. You subsequently complained to the Ombudsman about that decision.

The Reserve Bank has reviewed its handling of your request and concluded that refusing your request under section 9(2) of the Official Information Act 1982, in order to protect the privacy of the candidates considered for the role of Governor, was the wrong decision to make. The Reserve Bank should not have concluded that responding to your request would be likely to identify people who were considered but not appointed.

The Reserve Bank therefore provides you with the following information:

The total number of applicants considered for the Governor role: 48

The total number of applicants considered for the Governor role who were women: 6

The total number of individuals included on the short list: 25

The total number of women included on the shortlist: 2

Please note that applicants were not requested to provide their gender so the information on the number of women candidates reflects best judgements made on the basis of candidate names. Similarly, data on ethnicity was not collected. The Reserve Bank does not consider there to be any reliable way to judge ethnicity without that information having been provided by candidates. Information on pakeha and non-pakeha candidates that you requested is not provided to you as it does not exist.

I apologise on behalf of the Bank for the deficient way in which it handled your request and withheld information that you were entitled to.

Yours sincerely



Sean Mills
Assistant Governor and Head of Operations