

9 September 2019

Neil
fyi-request-10933-e98bc297@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Neil

Thank you for your request made under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA), transferred from the State Services Commission. Inland Revenue received your request on 13 August 2019. You requested:

At a conference on 2 August 2019 the Solicitor General and Chief Executive of Crown Law advised that Chief Executives of Public Agencies had signed an agreement in which they agreed that they would refuse to speak on 'panels' which are not regarded as diverse.

- 1. Please provide a copy of the pledge, including which agency Chief Executives have signed.*
- 2. If it is not apparent by the terms of the document please advise what would be regarded as a diverse panel. For example, would (or could) an all woman panel be regarded as diverse, if not would an all woman panel with a member of an ethnic minority be regarded as diverse? Would an all male panel always be regarded as not diverse? If so, would that still be the case if a member of the panel identified as homosexual. Would a panel comprised of white, heterosexual, male persons be regarded as diverse if the members were of a variety of ages. Would a white, heterosexual, male panel of members of a similar age be regarded as diverse if some members were originally of working class background? What about an all Maori panel, how would that be regarded?*
- 3. Please provide any documentation (including email exchanges between public servants confirming that the above issues have been considered)*
- 4. Please provide any correspondence to or from the relevant Minister of the agency responsible for driving this initiative in which the Ministers support for this pledge is confirmed.*

Question 1: A copy of the pledge, and which chief executives have signed it

Please find attached a copy of *He Taurangi – the Panel Pledge*. As at 2 September 2019, the document has been signed by the following chief executives:

- Naomi Ferguson, Inland Revenue
- Peter Mersi, Ministry of Transport
- Andrew Crisp, Ministry of Housing and Urban Development
- Rebecca Kitteridge, New Zealand Security Intelligence Service
- Renee Graham, Ministry for Women
- Dorothy Adams, Social Investment Agency
- Nicholas Pole, Education Review Office
- Debbie Power, Ministry of Social Development
- Mac Leauanae, Ministry for Pacific Peoples

- Bernadette Cavanagh, Ministry for Culture & Heritage
- Brook Barrington, Department of the Prime Minister & Cabinet
- Peter Chrisp, New Zealand Trade & Enterprise
- Paul James, Department of Internal Affairs
- Gráinne Moss, Oranga Tamariki – Ministry for Children
- Bill Perry, New Zealand Customs Service
- Chris Seed, Ministry of Foreign Affairs & Trade
- Andrew Hampton, Government Communications Security Bureau
- Lewis Holden (Deputy Chief Executive), State Services Commission
- Julie Read, Serious Fraud Office
- Ashley Bloomfield, Ministry of Health
- Andrew Kibblewhite, Ministry of Justice
- Gabriel Makhoul, The Treasury
- Lou Sanson, Department of Conservation

Question 2: What would be regarded as a diverse panel?

The attached *He Taurangi – Panel Pledge* does not seek to define diversity, but gives examples of differences that diversity can include. Those signing the pledge have agreed to set up expectations when asked to speak on a panel, highlight any diversity imbalances, and actively encourage diverse voices.

Question 3: Documentation (including email exchanges between public servants confirming that the above issues have been considered)

There is no documentation regarding the definition of a diverse panel. Accordingly, part 3 of your request is refused under section 18 (g) of the OIA, as the information is not held by Inland Revenue.

Question 4: Correspondence to or from the relevant Minister, supporting the pledge

There is no correspondence with the Minister about *He Taurangi – the Panel Pledge*. Accordingly, part 4 of your request is refused under section 18(g) of the OIA, as the information is not held by Inland Revenue.

Right of review

If you disagree with my decision on your OIA request, you can ask an Inland Revenue review officer to review my decision. To ask for an internal review, please email the Commissioner of Inland Revenue at: CommissionersCorrespondence@ird.govt.nz.

Alternatively, under section 28(3) of the OIA, you have the right to ask the Ombudsman to investigate my decision. You can contact the office of the Ombudsman by email at: info@ombudsman.parliament.nz.

Thank you for your request. I trust that the information provided is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely



Kerryn McIntosh-Watt
Manager, Government & Executive Services

Attached: *He Taurangi – the Panel Pledge*