



## EXECUTIVE COUNCIL CHAMBERS

7 November 2019

John Luke  
fyi-request-11547-e4aefb4c@requests.fyi.org.nz

Reference: OIA-2019/20-0232

Dear John Luke

### **Official Information Act request: Number of Honours Conferred and Nominations Received 2014 - 2018**

Thank you for your Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) request received on 29 October 2019. You requested:

*"...The number of honours conferred in the regular honours lists total about 380 per annum.  
I would like to know the exact number of honours conferred in the regular honours lists in the 2014-2018, Also I would like to know the total nomination has been received an considered during these years as well..."*

### **Number of Royal Honours conferred between 2014 and 2018**

Records of recipients on previous lists are available on our website – [www.dpmc.govt.nz](http://www.dpmc.govt.nz) – where all New Zealand Honours Lists since June 1995 are available, including those between 2014 and 2018.

I am therefore declining your request for the number of recipients who have been conferred honours between 2014 and 2018 under s 18(d) of the Act, on the grounds that the information is publicly available.

For more information on the New Zealand Royal Honours system, please consult our website – <https://dpmc.govt.nz/our-programmes/new-zealand-royal-honours>

### **Number of nominations received between 2014 and 2018**

In response to the remainder of your request, around 1000 nominations are considered each year for inclusion on the regular New Year and Queen Birthday lists.

Protecting the confidentiality of material about Honours nominations and appointments is essential to maintaining the integrity of the New Zealand Royal Honours system. In particular, the protection of such information ensures that those engaging with the Honours system can rely on the confidentiality of the process.

Successive Ombudsmen have considered that information relating to the Royal Honours system may be withheld under the Official Information Act because there is a strong public interest in the protection of the confidentiality of the Royal Honours process.

Accordingly, I am withholding the exact number of nominations considered for each list between 2014 and 2018 under the following sections of the Act:

- s 9(2)(ba)(ii) to protect information which is subject to an obligation of confidence and to make it available would be likely to otherwise damage the public interest;
- s 9(2)(f)(iv) to maintain the constitutional conventions that protect the confidentiality of advice tendered by Ministers of the Crown and officials.

You have the right to ask the Ombudsman to investigate and review my decision under section 28(3) of the Act.

Yours sincerely

Michael Webster

Michael Webster  
**Clerk of the Executive Council**