

28 May 2020

John Luke
fyi-request-12636-a590496c@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Mr Luke,

Official Information Act request

Thank you for your email of 16 April 2020 requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), information on the Data Ethics Advisory Group and committees or sub-committees that Stats NZ currently has that involve members of the public:

- I would like to know how many committee or sub-committee the you current [sic] have that involved members of public. The only one I found online is the Data Ethics Advisory Group, are there any other groups? If there is one or more, please provide the current lay member's bio, and when their current term expired.
- I would like to the member of Data Ethics Advisory Group been paid for attend meeting and are there any benefits he/she received. How are you call for public express of interest to the Data Ethics Advisory Group and when the current member's term expired.

Stats NZ has reviewed all Stats NZ commissioned groups/boards/committees/sub-committees (committees) and has found that only the Data Ethics Advisory Group (DEAG) used an expression of interest open to the general public, to recruit group members. This review took a considerable effort from across the organisation and is the reason we had to delay responding to your request.

Typically, potential candidates for Stats NZ's committees are canvassed from a broad range of professionals, as well as cultural and community leaders, who are longlisted based on their experience, skills and expertise. These longlisted candidates are then given the opportunity to apply for the roles on Stats NZ's committees, and are further assessed to form a shortlist from which candidates are appointed.


Appointees are therefore not "lay members" nor sourced from a process open to the general public. The same process is used when managing the membership and replacing members of these committees. An example of this is the recently established Stats NZ [Governance Advisory Board](#).

The DEAG's [Terms of Membership](#) are available online. The remuneration for members of the DEAG is \$450 per meeting for ordinary members and \$900 per meeting for the Chair. Accommodation and travel expenses for members living outside of Wellington are covered but members do not receive any other benefits.

Expressions of interest for membership on the Group were called for on www.data.govt.nz. As noted on the DEAG's [webpage](#), its function and membership will be reviewed in June 2020.

Stats NZ intends to publish its response to your request made under the Act on the Stats NZ website. This letter, with your personal details removed, will be published in its entirety. Consistent with the Act, publishing responses increases the availability of information to the public and helps promote balanced public debate.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'J. Turner', is centered below the text 'Yours sincerely,'.

Judith Turner
**Manager, Office of the Government Statistician and Chief Executive
Stats NZ**