



**MINISTRY OF SOCIAL  
DEVELOPMENT**

TE MANATŪ WHAKAHIATO ORA

John Luke  
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25 AUG 2020

Dear John Luke

On 29 July 2020, you emailed the Ministry of Social Development (the Ministry) requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), the following information:

- *The membership term of some members of the Social Workers Complaints and Disciplinary Tribunal (SWCDT) expires on 15 October 2020. When do you intend to call for the nomination process for new members?*
- *What is the nomination process for non-lay members? Is it the same as the process for lay members?*

For the sake of clarity, I will answer your questions in turn:

*The membership term of some members of the Social Workers Complaints and Disciplinary Tribunal (SWCDT) expires on 15 October 2020. When do you intend to call for the nomination process for new members?*

The appointments process for the two registered social worker members of the SWCDT whose terms are expiring 15 October 2020, is in the process of being completed. We expect these appointments to be gazetted by the end of August 2020.

Having recently gained approval from the Minister for Social Development to begin the appointments process for the three lay members to the SWCDT, we expect to call for nominations over two weeks in August/September 2020. Run on provisions will apply under section 118(3) of the Social Workers Registration Act 2003, so the current members have the ability to continue in the role until new members have been appointed.

*What is the nomination process for non-lay (professional) members? Is it the same as the process for lay members?*

The process for appointing registered social worker members to the SWCDT is as follows:

- the Ministry gains approval from the Minister for Social Development to start the appointments process to identify candidates to replace outgoing members of the SWCDT
- a two-week call for nominations begins using a targeted process. This process involves:

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- sending an email to all registered social workers advising them of the vacancy and inviting them to apply
  - seeking nominations from the Cabinet and caucus colleagues of the Minister for Social Development, including any support parties
  - seeking nominations from stakeholders across the social work profession
  - placing a notification on the Social Workers Registration Board (SWRB) website; and
  - if timeframes allow, the SWRB inviting expressions of interest via their quarterly newsletter.
- Candidates are then shortlisted.
  - The shortlisted candidates are approved by the Minister for Social Development and presented for the consideration of the Appointments and Honours Committee (APH).
  - Once APH approval has been gained and confirmed by Cabinet, letters of appointment are sent out and the appointments are gazetted.

The process for appointing lay members to the SWCDT is the same as the process for appointing registered social worker members, except for the call for nominations.

- The two-week call for nominations for lay members uses an open process. This process involves:
  - seeking nominations from the Cabinet and caucus colleagues of the Minister for Social Development, including any support parties , and
  - placing a notice on the Ministry's website, [www.jobs.govt.nz](http://www.jobs.govt.nz) and [www.seek.co.nz](http://www.seek.co.nz), inviting expressions of interest from suitably qualified candidates. These are linked to the SWRB website.

All other elements of the process are the same.

The principles and purposes of the Official Information Act 1982 under which you made your request are:

- to create greater openness and transparency about the plans, work and activities of the Government
- to increase the ability of the public to participate in the making and administration of our laws and policies
- to lead to greater accountability in the conduct of public affairs.

This Ministry fully supports those principles and purposes. The Ministry therefore intends to make the information contained in this letter and any attached documents available to the wider public. The Ministry will do this by publishing this letter on the Ministry of Social Development's website. Your personal details will be deleted and the Ministry will not publish any information that would identify you as the person who requested the information.

If you wish to discuss this response with us, please feel free to contact [OIA\\_Requests@msd.govt.nz](mailto:OIA_Requests@msd.govt.nz).

If you are not satisfied with this response regarding the SWCDT member nomination process, you have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman. Information about how to make a complaint is available at [www.ombudsman.parliament.nz](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz) or 0800 802 602.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Mark Frew', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Mark Frew  
**Acting General Manager**  
**Organisational Planning, Performance and Governance**