



2 October 2020

John Luke

Via email: fyi-request-13696-e38e2099@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear John

Thank you for your email dated 6 September 2020 in which you ask a number of questions relating to the establishment of dispute panels.

As you note in your email, the Education and Training Act 2020 (ETA) enables the establishment of dispute panels. The ETA can be found [here](#), and the relevant provisions start from section 216. These provisions are enabling, and dispute panels will only be established once the Regulations and resourcing needed for establishing panels are in place. The timeframe for when the new panels will be established, the number of panels and where they will be, are yet to be determined.

The Ministry of Education will develop the required Regulations, which will provide additional detail about panel processes and procedures, and the qualifications and experience of members. The Ministry will publicly consult on these Regulations as they are developed.

The ETA does provide some details about the qualifications of members and functions of the panel, which will assist the development of job descriptions. For example, the Chief Referee and any deputy must have a legal qualification (or equivalent), and panels can mediate, make recommendations or, if the parties agree, make binding decisions.

We are not able to provide any additional detail on how panels will operate at this time.

Please let me know if you wish to be informed when the consultation period on the Regulations begins.

Thank you for taking the time to write.

Yours sincerely

Ben O'Meara
Group Manager
Education System Policy