



19 JUL 2021

John Luke

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Tēnā koe John Luke

On 21 June 2021, you emailed the Ministry of Social Development (the Ministry) requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), the following information regarding community representative vacancies of Crown entity boards and statutory tribunals:

- *I would like to know if you have any future opening in 2021. e.g. the position that will call for nomination in the year of 2021.*

The Ministry has interpreted this request as following on from your previous request and only relating to ministerial appointments.

In the case of appointments made by the Minister to Crown entity boards and statutory tribunals, it is not possible to predict with any certainty if, and when, these will be advertised. The approach taken will depend upon the circumstances of each appointment. In some instances, for example, the option may exist to reappoint an incumbent, or allow their appointment to run on for a period. In other instances, the position may only be able to be filled by nominations from bodies specified in the entity's legislation.

In the case of appointments to Benefit Review Committees, the Ministry has recently completed recruitment for the Bay of Plenty, Canterbury, and Central regions. Further recruitment for 2021 will be dependent on whether any of the Community Representatives resign from their roles or if the Ministry believes that more Community Representatives are required.

When the decision is made to invite applications for upcoming Crown entity and statutory tribunal appointments, these will be advertised by the Ministry here: [www.msd.govt.nz/about-msd-and-our-work/about-msd/ministers/appointments.html](http://www.msd.govt.nz/about-msd-and-our-work/about-msd/ministers/appointments.html). You can also find information regarding benefit review committee nominations, and the position description for the Community Representative here.

The Ministry accepts nominations at any time so that a pool of community representatives is available as and when vacancies arise. Nomination databases are common for many government agencies, and appointment information can be found on their respective websites.

Due to the inability to predict the timing of vacancies, your request for this information is refused under section 18(e) of the Act as this information does not exist.

The principles and purposes of the 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 and
- 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 regarding vacancies with the Ministry, please feel free to contact [OIA\\_Requests@msd.govt.nz](mailto:OIA_Requests@msd.govt.nz).

If you are not satisfied with this response, 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.

Ngā mihi nui



Diane Anderson

**Manager**

**Client Advocacy and Review**