

6 October 2022

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OIA 28293

Tēnā koe John Luke

I refer to your email of 13 September 2022 in which you request the following under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA):

*Thank you for your recent reply-OIA 28274
<https://fyi.org.nz/request/20223/response/77191/attach/3/OIA%2028274%20John%20Luke%20Response.pdf>*

I noted " late September or early October via Minister Twyford's Twitter account. "

May I ask what is the background context on making the announcement via Twitter rather than other official channel? I found this very unusual compare to many other ministerial appointment announcement process.

Also, you have not answer my question fully, "total number of applicants you have received and have you received any recommendations from non-public expression of interest process, e.g. any from minister office or any other ministry, if you have, please provide the name of agency you have received the nomination from e.g. Te Puni Kōkiri."

Thank you for your follow up questions regarding our previous OIA response to you on 12 September 2022 (reference OIA 28244).

With regard to the first part of your request, specifically for "background context on making the announcement via Twitter rather than other official channel", the information you are seeking is not held by the Ministry and would consequently need to be created in order to respond to your question. As you may appreciate, the OIA enables people to request official information from Ministers and agencies, including the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (the Ministry). However, the Act only applies to information that is already held by the Ministry. There is no obligation on the Ministry to create information in order to respond to a request. Therefore, this part of your request is refused under section 18(g) of the OIA.

With regard to the second part of your request, we draw attention to our advice in our previous OIA response (OIA 28274) that the Ministry ran two separate Expression of Interest (EOI) processes in relation to the current Public Advisory Committee on Disarmament and Arms Control (PACDAC).


The first process was for the purpose of appointing a new PACDAC membership for the 2022-2024 term, and closed late last year. A total number of 32 nominations were received, of this number, five nominations were received outside of the expression of interest (EOI) process: two from the Ministry for Ethnic Communities, two from the Green Party, and one from the National Party.

The second process relates to the appointment of a new member after one of the members appointed in December 2021 vacated their position in May 2022. This process closed on 29 July 2022. A total number of eight nominations were received, one of which was received outside of the EOI process. This nomination was made by the Chair of PACDAC, the Minister for Disarmament and Arms Control.

Please note that we may publish this letter (with your personal details redacted) on the Ministry's website.

If you have any questions about this decision, you can contact us by email at: DM-ESD@mfat.govt.nz. You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this decision by contacting www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or freephone 0800 802 602.

Nāku noa, nā

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'SC', written in a cursive style.

Sarah Corbett
for Secretary of Foreign Affairs and Trade