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27 January 2023

James

By email: fyi-request-21386-8df53cb8@requests.fyi.org.nz
Ref: H2022018477

Tēnā koe James

Response to your request for official information

Thank you for your request under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) to Manatū Hauora on 10 December 2022 for information regarding Matthew Tukaki. Information in response to each part of your request is outlined below:

“While being considered for the role of Director of the Suicide Prevention Office and as part of the CV check process, was the Maori Council contacted? If not, why not? Was any information and feedback sought from the Maori Council regarding Mr Tukaki’s time there? If not, why not?”

A rigorous employment process is followed for all recruitments at Manatū Hauora, including reference checks as standard practice. This was followed for the hiring of Mr Tukaki. Manatū Hauora can confirm that the Māori Council were consulted as part of this process, and that information and feedback regarding Mr Tukaki’s tenure at the Māori Council was sought.

Was the MOH aware of a complaint the Maori Council laid with Police and among those named in the complaint for emailing BNZ about the pause on the accounts is Matthew Tukaki? Did the MOH seek further information and clarification on this with people other Mr Tukaki himself? If not, why not?”

At the time of the recruitment process, Manatū Hauora was not aware of a complaint laid by the Māori Council with Police that named Mr Tukaki.

Did the MOH seek clarification with the NZ Maori council regarding Matthew Tukaki’s claim he was he held the head position rather than senior roles? If not, why not?”

As noted above, appropriate reference checks were undertaken as part of the recruitment process. This included confirming previous relevant positions and the key responsibilities of those roles.

By way of background, Mr Tukaki was one of 22 applicants for the position, and one of three people who interviewed for the Director position at the Suicide Prevention Office. Following these interviews, the panel selected Mr Tukaki as the preferred candidate for the role. This was due to his experience in a similar role in Australia, his strong leadership skills, experience working across agencies, his strategic vision, and his media experience.

Following Mr Tukaki's selection as the preferred candidate, reference and police checks were undertaken as per the standard recruitment process at Manatū Hauora. Four reference checks were conducted, which were all very positive. Mr Tukaki was then offered the role with a commencement date of 1 July 2022.

Under section 28(3) of the Act, you have the right to ask the Ombudsman to review any decisions made under this request. The Ombudsman may be contacted by email at: info@ombudsman.parliament.nz or by calling 0800 802 602.

Please note that this response, with your personal details removed, may be published on the Manatū Hauora website at: www.health.govt.nz/about-ministry/information-releases/responses-official-information-act-requests.

Nāku noa, nā



Robyn Shearer
Deputy Director-General
System Performance and Monitoring | Te Pou Mahi Pūnaha