

27 March 2023

File Ref: OIA 46572

John Luke
fyi-request-21641-b90cfccd@requests.fyi.org.nz

Tēnā koe John

Official Information Act request

Thank you for your information request dated 25 February 2023. You asked for the following information:

"I noted in your reply,

- *Conservation Boards*
- *District Health Boards*
- *University Councils*

Can you specify exactly which sub-entities you have actually provide nomination to? e.g. Auckland University.

Also, I noted "a database of approximately 1,260 registered persons", can you provide to me how many are female and how many are male".

Response

Your request has been considered under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act). Prior to responding to your request I wish to address some imprecision in our earlier response (File Ref: OIA 46458) to you on this matter.

As part of the list of entities we have provided nominees for we incorrectly listed "Conservation boards" we should have used the term "Conservation-related boards". Similarly, we incorrectly used the term "District Health Boards", we should have used the term "Health-related boards". I apologise for any confusion this error may have caused you.

In relation to your request for specification of which entities nominations were provided to under each of the categories you listed (incorporating the above correction).

I can confirm:

- Conservation-related boards – we have provided nominees for consideration for Te Pou Atawahai Taiao o Aotearoa (the New Zealand Conservation Authority).
- Health-related boards – we have provided nominees for consideration for the Health Research Council of New Zealand.
- University Councils – this part of your request is refused in accordance with s18(g) on the basis that the information is not held. The Tertiary Education Commission, who manages these appointments, requests nominees for Councils. The information is

recorded as being provided to the Tertiary Education Commission, not the specific Councils.

You also requested a breakdown of the number of male and female nominees in our database. Gender identification is not a mandatory field of information we collect. Given the incompleteness of the data we hold, I do not consider this part of your request to be within the scope of the Official Information Act 1982 as it does not constitute a request for official information.

In explaining why I have reached this conclusion, I believe it would be of some assistance for you to refer to the Office of the Ombudsman's [helpful guide](#)¹ for requesters making requests under the Act.

On page 7 of this guide there is a useful section differentiating:

- 'information held', from
- 'information that is not held'.

Specifically, the guide explains that an agency (or Minister) "*is not obliged to **form an opinion** or **create information** to answer an official information request*".

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this response. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or freephone 0800 802 602.

Please note that Te Puni Kōkiri publishes some of its OIA responses on its website, after the response is sent to the requester. The responses published are those that are considered to have a high level of public interest. We will not publish your name, address or contact details.

If you wish to discuss any aspect of your request with us, including this decision, please feel free to contact us at ويا@tpk.govt.nz.

Ngā mihi



Grace Smit
Hautū, Te Puni Whakahaere Tikanga | Deputy Secretary, Strategy, Finance and Performance

¹ "Making official information requests – A guide for requesters" URL - <https://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz/resources/making-official-information-requests-guide-requesters>