



OIA23-0044

27 February 2023

John Luke
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Dear John Luke

Thank you for your email of 28 January 2023 requesting information relating to vacant ministerial appointments. Your request has been considered under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA).

Many of the boards to which Ministers make appointments are governed by primary legislation. The recruitment process for each board depends on the requirements of the relevant act. For example, section 13 of the Pork Industry Board Act 1997 requires the New Zealand Pork Board (NZPB) to provide a list of suitably qualified candidates to the appointing Minister. The list must include female candidates among other requirements. The Minister may only appoint a candidate to the NZPB that has been provided in that list.

Many ministerial appointments require industry specific technical knowledge and vacancies are not always listed publicly. Where applicable, the Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) initiates the recruitment process when an appointee's term is due to expire. MPI consults with a wide range of bodies including the Ministry for Women, Te Puni Kōkiri, the Ministry for Ethnic Communities and the Ministry for Pacific Peoples, to ensure there is a diverse range of suitably qualified candidates. MPI also consults with and sources candidates from appropriate private sector bodies. As part of the recruitment process, MPI undertakes background checks on candidates to ensure they are suitably qualified and that conflicts of interest are identified and appropriately managed. The Minister is then provided with appropriate information on a range of candidates to inform the decision on the appointment

I shall quote and respond to each part of your request below.

I would like to request a list of vacancy (ministerial appointment only, e.g. board member, Lay member, Trustee etc) that the nomination period has been closed but still under consideration by the MPI or relevant Minister. If there is any, please indicate what stage they are currently at and when you are expected to have a final outcome. In your list, can you please include the date that vacancy been advertised, what method you have used to publicly advertise the position, how many applications you have received and when the vacancy been closed as well.

Two Board member positions for Herenga ā Nuku Aotearoa, the Outdoor Access Commission (also legally known as the New Zealand Walking Access Commission) are under consideration by MPI or the relevant Minister. The outcome on these positions is expected in April/May 2023. Nominations for the above-mentioned Board member positions opened on 21 October 2022 and closed on 25 November 2022. Nominations were sought from various government and non-governmental agencies and were also made available to the public. Individuals interested in these Board member positions could also apply directly through MPI Careers website. The positions

were searchable via seek.co.nz, jobs.govt.nz, Ahu, maoripacificjobs.co.nz and LinkedIn. A total of 36 applications were received.

As of 14 February 2023, there are no other positions currently under consideration by MPI or MPI's ministers

Also, I would like to know if you have any future opening in 2023. e.g. the position that will call for nomination in the year of 2023.

There are two members of the Kiwifruit New Zealand (KNZ) board who will be completing their terms on 30 September 2023. A list of potential candidates will be sent to the Minister of Agriculture to choose from and will then be considered by Cabinet in the third quarter of 2023.

There will be two vacancies for the Food Standards Australia New Zealand Board (FSANZ). MPI will be calling for nominations for these roles in late 2023.

There is a director position in New Zealand Pork Industry Board that will be appointed in July 2023 in line with the end period of the previous director. This will be appointed by the Minister of Agriculture on the Board's recommendation.

A National Animal Welfare Advisory Committee (NAWAC) vacancy will be advertised in 2023. This is a replacement for a resigning member. The vacancy will be advertised across a range of networks, including the gov.jobs.nz website and MPI Careers portal.

The reappointment of a National Animal Ethics Advisory Committee (NAEAC) committee member is coming up in October 2023. This reappointment does not call for nominations.

There are potentially two further Crown and two private sector appointments to be made to the Centre for Climate Action Joint Venture (JV) Board in the second half of 2023, but the decision whether to initiate that process has not been made.

I trust the information provided is of assistance. Should you have any concerns with this response, I would encourage you to raise these with the Ministry for Primary Industries at Official.InformationAct@mpi.govt.nz. Alternatively, you are advised of your right to also raise any concerns with the Office of the Ombudsman. Contact details are: Office of the Ombudsman, PO Box 10152, Wellington 6143 or at info@ombudsman.parliament.nz.

Yours sincerely



Michelle Morehu
Director Government Services