



John Luke

fyi-request-21819-f66a3ad8@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear John Luke

On 13 February 2023, you emailed the Department of Conservation requesting the following under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

Dear Department of Conservation,

*I noted: Appointment / Reappointments to the Fiordland Marine Guardians
<https://gazette.govt.nz/notice/id/2023-go489>*

May I ask how did you call for public nomination and on what platform you have call for public nominations, e.g. govt.jobs website.

Also, how many applications you have received from the public and how many you have received from other nominating agencies such as TPK or Ministry of women etc. further, how many you have shortlisted and interviewed.

I am also requesting the job description for the member role and the pay rate.

Also, the full meeting minutes from 1st Jan 2022 to 1st Feb 2023.

As you are aware, on 13 March 2023, your request was transferred to the Ministry for the Environment (the Ministry) for response, pursuant to section 14(b) of the Act.

In response to **part one** of your request, on 21 July 2022, the Minister for the Environment sent letters to the Minister of Conservation, Minister for Biosecurity and the Chief Executive of Environment Southland inviting them to nominate candidates and informing them of his intention to re-appoint two existing Guardians.

The Ministry invited nominations from:

- Nominating agencies as per the [Public Service Commission Board Appointment guidelines](#). The Ministry emailed: Ministry for Women, Te Puni Kōkiri, Ministry for Pacific Peoples, Ministry for Ethnic Communities, Office for Disability Issues
- Management agencies (Department of Conservation, Ministry for Primary Industries – Fisheries NZ and Biosecurity NZ, Environment Southland)
- The public (a call for nominations was advertised on the Guardian's website (www.fmg.org.nz), the Guardian's contacts database, and local media – in these newspapers: The Southland Times, Otago Daily Times, The Southland Express, and The Ensign).

The Minister for the Environment has statutory responsibility for the appointment of the Fiordland Marine Guardians (Guardians) as per the Fiordland (Te Moana o Atawhenua) Marine Management Act 2005. The Ministry ran a process to identify candidates for appointment of Guardians and sought nominations from a wide range of sources.

In response to **part two** of your request, two existing Guardians notified their intention to seek re-appointment. On 26 June 2022, the Minister for the Environment agreed in principle to re-appoint two existing Guardians for a second term as Fiordland Marine Guardians. The Ministry then commenced an appointments process for one vacant role. Two nominations were received:

- One self-nomination was received from a member of the public on 8 August 2022.
- The Chief Executive of Environment Southland nominated a candidate on 8 August 2022.
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In response to **part three** of your request, the Assessment Panel (representatives from Management agencies and the Guardians) assessed both candidates against a skills/experience matrix, then shortlisted and interviewed both candidates who applied for the role (a total of two).

In response to **part four** of your request, please find the Fiordland Marine Guardians role description attached. The current daily pay rate is \$396.00 for the Chair and \$308.00 for members.

In response to **part five** of your request, the Ministry has identified four documents in scope, as listed in the attached document schedule.

Some information within these documents has been withheld under the following sections of the Act:

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| 6(c) | the information would be likely to prejudice the maintenance of the law, including the prevention, investigation, and detection of offences. |
| 9(2)(b)(ii) | to protect information where the making available of the information would likely unreasonably to prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied or who is the subject of the information. |

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Office of the Ombudsman of my decision to withhold information relating to this request, in accordance with section 28(3) of the Act.

The relevant details can be found on their website at: www.ombudsman.parliament.nz.

Please note that due to the public interest in our work the Ministry for the Environment publishes responses to requests for official information on our [OIA responses page](#) shortly after the response has been sent.

If you have any queries about this, please feel free to contact our Ministerial Services team: ministerials@mfe.govt.nz.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'H. Johnston', with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Hayden Johnston
Director - Water and Land Use Policy

Document schedule

Document no.	Document date	Content	Decisions	OIA sections applied
1	24 February 2022	Minutes: The Fiordland Guardians/Agencies Group Meeting – February 2022	Released in full	N/A
2	4 May 2022	Minutes: The Fiordland Guardians/Agencies Group Meeting – May 2022	Released in part	6(c)
3	10 August 2022	Minutes: The Fiordland Guardians/Agencies Group Meeting – August 2022	Released in part	6(c)
4	15 November 2022	Minutes: The Fiordland Guardians/Agencies Group Meeting – November 2022	Released in part	6(c) and 9(2)(b)(ii)
5	N/A	Fiordland Marine Guardians role description	Released in full	N/A