

Hon Kieran McAnulty

Minister for Emergency Management
Minister of Local Government
Minister for Racing
Minister for Rural Communities
Deputy Leader of the House



27 March 2023

John Luke
fyi-request-21907-88e306dc@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear John

Thank you for your email of 24 February 2023 requesting the following information under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

"I noted, Reappointments to Taumata Arowai Board

<https://gazette.govt.nz/notice/id/2023-g0651>

May I ask how did you call for public nomination and on what platform you have call for public nominations, e.g. IOD website. Also, how many applications you have received from the public and how many you have received from other nominating agencies such as TPK. further, how many you have shortlisted.

The term of reference of the role and the job description for the role.

Further, full meeting minutes of this board from 1st Jan 2022 to 1st Feb 2023."

On 23 February 2023 the reappointments of three of the seven Taumata Arowai Board (the Board) members were published in the New Zealand Gazette, as referred to in your request. The reappointed members being Dr Virginia Hope, Loretta Lovell and Anthony Wilson.

In accordance with the Public Service Commission guidelines, where a reappointment is being recommended, the full appointment process need not be followed. However, the potential interests and conflicts of each reappointed Board member were reassessed by the Department of Internal Affairs (the Department) as the monitoring agency for Taumata Arowai and my Cabinet colleagues were assured reappointments were the most appropriate option.

The Department sought the opinion of the Taumata Arowai Board Chair with regards to whether the skill sets and experience of the individuals whose terms were ending on 22 February 2023 remained fit-for-purpose and relevant in the establishment phase, as well as remaining relevant in establishing relationships and developing new ways of working with, and regulating the water sector. It was noted that Taumata Arowai is still in its early stages of developing as an organisation having only taken on its drinking water regulatory responsibilities in November 2022, following its legal establishment in March 2021. With increasing regulatory requirements and the inclusion of wastewater and stormwater responsibilities, I believe maintaining continuity of board membership would be beneficial in providing a stable and consistent oversight of Taumata Arowai.

As reappointments to board members did not require a call for public nominations, this part of your request has been refused under section 18(e) of the Act as *the document alleged to contain the information requested does not exist.*

With regards to the part of your request relating to a job description, please find the Candidate Information Sheet for the Taumata Arowai Board and Chair as **Appendix A**.

Currently there are no Terms of Reference for Taumata Arowai, therefore this part of your request has been refused under section 18(e) of the Act, *as the document alleged to contain the information does not exist*.

However, I would like to acknowledge the relationship between Taumata Arowai and Te Puna (the Māori Advisory Group) which is mandated under section 17 of the Water Service Regulator Act 2020. Please find the link to the Memorandum of Understanding between the Board and Te Puna here [MoU-2022-Board-and-Te-Puna.pdf \(taumataarowai.govt.nz\)](#) and the Terms of Reference of Te Puna found here [Te-Puna-Terms-of-Reference-for-Taumata-Arowai.pdf \(taumataarowai.govt.nz\)](#). These documents can be found on the Taumata Arowai website.

Lastly, you have requested the Taumata Arowai Board's full meeting minutes from 1 January 2022 to 1 February 2023. Please find this information attached as **Appendix B**. Some information has been withheld under section 9(2)(k) of the Act *to prevent the disclosure or use of official information for improper gain or improper advantage*.

In accordance with section 9(1) of the Act, I do not consider the withholding of information under section 9(2)(k) of the Act, is outweighed by other considerations which render it desirable, in the public interest, to make that information available.

You have the right, under section 28(3) of the Act, to seek an investigation and review of this decision by the Office of the Ombudsman. The postal address of the Office of the Ombudsman is PO Box 10152, Wellington. Alternatively, you can phone 0800 802 602 or email info@ombudsman.parliament.nz.

Yours sincerely



Hon Kieran McAnulty
Minister of Local Government