



# Te Kawa Mataaho

Public Service Commission

30 March 2023

Harris Leigh

[fyi-request-22026-1defaddb@requests.fyi.org.nz](mailto:fyi-request-22026-1defaddb@requests.fyi.org.nz)

Dear Harris

## Official Information Request

**Our Ref: OIA 2023-0048**

I refer to your official information request received on 7 March 2023 for:

*“any information you hold relating to political commentary by Mr Tim Hurdle while he was on the board of EQC. To assist and without limiting my request I specifically seek:*

- 1) any internal documentation about PSC (and or SSC) consideration of the appropriateness of Mr Hurdle's public comments while serving on the EQC board*
- 2) any advice provided to Ministers about this issue.”*

## Background

Crown entity Board members are bound by the Code of Conduct for Crown Entity Board Members, which was issued by the Public Service Commissioner (the Commissioner) under the Public Service Act 2020 in March 2021. The Code reinforces the requirement of political neutrality which requires all Crown entity Board members to act in a politically impartial manner, irrespective of their political interests and can be found publicly available [here](#).

## Our Response

Publicly available information shows Mr Tim Hurdle was a member of the Earthquake Commission board from June 2016 – June 2019. We have reviewed our records and found no advice was provided to any Ministers and no information that Te Kawa Mataaho Public Service Commission gave consideration as to the appropriateness of Mr Hurdle's public comments while he was a member of the EQC Board. Therefore, we are refusing your request under section 18(e) of the Official Information Act, on the grounds that the information requested does not exist.

If you wish to discuss this decision with us, please feel free to contact [Ministerial.Services@publicservice.govt.nz](mailto:Ministerial.Services@publicservice.govt.nz).

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this decision. Information about how to make a complaint is available at [www.ombudsman.parliament.nz](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz) or freephone 0800 802 602.

Please note that we intend to publish this letter (with your personal details removed) on the Te Kawa Mataaho Public Service Commission's website.

Yours sincerely

Nicky Dirks

**Manager – Ministerial and Executive Services**  
**Te Kawa Mataaho Public Service Commission**