



19 June 2023

Ref: DOIA 2223-2707

L K Harris

fyi-request-22869-c5adec91@requests.fyi.org.nz

Tēnā koe L K Harris

Thank you for your email of 21 May 2023 to the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE) requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), the following information:

- How is MBIE monitoring and checking that the NZRAB and its obligations under the Registered Architects Act 2005 are being upheld, and in particular ensuring that they are administering the reasons why or why not someone is eligible for registration without discrimination?*
- Is MBIE satisfied that the NZRAB is not discriminatory towards its applicants for registration, and what processes are in place in the NZRAB to ensure this*
- Is MBIE satisfied that the NZRAB Architects register reflects the multicultural and gender-diverse society of NZ, yes please provide statistics and if not please clarify and identify this.*
- Is the NZRAB required to keep and report on data on the successful and unsuccessful applicants to the Qualifications and Experience Assessment (QEAP)? If not, then why not?*
- Is MBIE satisfied that the Pathway 2 process is correctly represented on the NZRAB website and that the application process ensures transparency for all applicants?*

Under the Registered Architects Act 2005, the role of MBIE is to monitor the New Zealand Registered Architects Board's (the Board) execution of its statutory functions and achievement of its performance measures. Performance measures are set in agreement between the Minister of Building and Construction and the Board every three years on average. The submission of the Board's annual report and analysis against their performance measures is MBIE's primary way of monitoring the actions of the Board throughout the financial year. The Board is obligated under the Act to submit this report to the Minister and to submit a report on operations, financial statements and statement of responsibility to the Auditor-General. MBIE has no obligations regarding the submission to the Auditor-General, only to the Annual Report.

Further, MBIE acts as the Minister of Building and Construction's officials in making appointments to the Board. The Board Appointments and Governance Team (MBIE) oversees carrying out public searches for candidates for Board roles, engagement with the New Zealand Institute of Architects for their designated roles under the Act and providing advice to the Minister on candidates for appointment. They also provide the relevant documentation to the Appointments and Honours Committee, and Cabinet, to progress appointments and perform the relevant due diligence checks on candidates.

However, MBIE cannot speak to the specific questions you have raised regarding the NZRAB Architects' Register reflecting the multicultural and gender-diverse nature of New Zealand society, requirements for

keeping and reporting on data regarding applications for the Qualifications and Experience Assessment Assessment, or the transparency for all applicants in the Pathway 2 process as described on the Board's website. MBIE does not exercise any jurisdiction in the Board's operational matters, nor do we exercise any oversight of the Architects' Register. As such, these questions will have to be referred to the Board for answers. MBIE is therefore transferring these parts of your request to the New Zealand Registered Architects Board, in accordance with section 14(b)(ii) of the Act, which allows me to transfer any request that is believed to be more closely aligned with the functions of another department, organisation or Minister of the Crown.

If you wish to discuss any aspect of your request or this response, or if you require any further assistance, please contact OIA@mbie.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 or freephone 0800 802 602.

Nāku noa, nā

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Paul Metcalf', written over a circular stamp or seal.

Paul Metcalf

Manager, Appointments and Governance
Labour, Science, and Enterprise