



OIA23-0619

2 November 2023

John Luke
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Dear John Luke

Thank you for your email of 4 October 2023 requesting information relating to ministerial vacancies. Your request has been considered under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA).

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.

You requested:

1) 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.

The Food Standards Australia New Zealand Board have two vacancies that will be filled by ministerial appointment. Nominations closed on 30 July 2023 and the nomination panel started their short listing for the Food Safety Minister in October. A total of 27 nominations were received.

One National Animal Welfare Advisory Committee (NAWAC) vacancy has been advertised in 2023 and remains under consideration. Nominations were sought from the New Zealand Veterinary Council, the New Zealand Veterinary Association (NZVA), the Department of Conservation, Manatū Wāhine - the Ministry for Women, Te Puni Kōkiri, the Ministry for Pacific Peoples, Ministry for Ethnic Communities, the Whaikaha - Ministry of Disabled People and selected levy bodies. The vacancy was advertised on the Government Jobs website and the MPI Careers website, opening on 9 May 2023 and closing on 23 May 2023. Five applications were received. A shortlist of candidates will be provided to the Minister of Agriculture for consideration.

2) Also, I would like to know if you have any future opening in 2024. e.g. the position that will call for nomination in the year of 2024.

Four NAWAC members and five National Animal Ethics Advisory Committee (NAEAC) member's terms are due to expire in the second half of 2024. Further information on NAWAC and NAEAC membership can found on the committee's independent websites nawac.org.nz and neaec.org.nz. MPI will start the recruitment process for those vacancies in 2024. The Veterinarians Act 2005 provides the composition of the Veterinary Council of New Zealand (VCNZ). This includes three Ministerial appointments. In 2024, two of those appointments will expire and will be open for nominations. They are 1 veterinarian and 1 layperson.

The next member/chairperson appointment in the Kiwifruit New Zealand Board is not due until 1 October 2024. This appointment will be processed in accordance with the requirements in regulation 36(3) of the Kiwifruit Export Regulations 1999 and MPI will commence the above process by around March 2024.

New Zealand Horticulture Export Authority next appointments are not due until 31 December 2024. MPI will commence the appointment process by June 2024. Under section 10 of the New Zealand Horticulture Export Authority Act 1987, the Minister will make the following appointments:

- Two members nominated by Horticulture New Zealand
- One member nominated by New Zealand Horticultural Exporters Council

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