



OIA24-0594

17 September 2024

John Luke  
fyi-request-28048-a8cbc47b@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear John,

Thank you for your email of 14 August 2024 requesting information relating to nominations for the Veterinary Council of New Zealand. Your request has been considered under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA).

On 11 September 2024 MPI extended the time limit to respond to your request to 25 September 2024.

You requested the following:

*I noted, you have recently called for nominations for your Veterinary Council of New Zealand (the Vet Council)*

*May I ask how you called for public nomination and on what platform you have called 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 for Women etc. for your role. How many have you shortlisted and how many have you interviewed. When do you expect the process will be concluded.*

Nominations for the roles open on the Veterinary Council of New Zealand (the Vet Council) were advertised publicly on Seek.co.nz, jobs.govt.nz, and MPI's website. Nominations were also called for on the website for the Vet Council, with applicants being directed to make nominations on the above sites advertising the role.

Nominations are now closed, and 16 nominations were received. 11 of these nominations have been identified as qualified vets, four as otherwise qualified (lay people), and one applicant was identified as not eligible for consideration. There were no nominations received from nominating agencies.

The next steps assessing applicants to the Vet Council are managed by MPI staff and take between 3-6 months. The steps consist of:

- Background checks and further assessment of candidates before presenting shortlist to the Minister;
- Approval of shortlist by the Minister;
- Complete referee checks, conflict of interest declarations, and interview approved candidates, and
- Minister is briefed on recommended appointments and takes the recommendations to Cabinet for approval.

Once assessments are complete and recommendations received by Cabinet, the appointment of candidates begins which is the responsibility of the Minister for Agriculture. The steps to appointment are publicly available linked as the *Appointments Process Workflow* in the Public Service Commissions guide to appointing candidates which can be accessed here; <https://www.publicservice.govt.nz/guidance/guide-board-appointment-and-induction-guidelines/appointing-candidates#:~:text=Once%20the%20minister's%20intention%20to,appointment%20to%20the%20Governor%2DGeneral>.

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](mailto: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](mailto:info@ombudsman.parliament.nz).

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Fiona Duncan', written in a cursive style.

Fiona Duncan  
**Director, Regulatory Systems Policy**