



John Luke

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9 May 2022

Tēnā koe John Luke

On 13 April 2022 you emailed the Ministry of Social Development (the Ministry) requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), the following information:

- *How many people are currently on the Office for Disability Issues Nominations Database?*
- *In the past 3 years being 2021, 2020, 2019, how many positions have you received from other government agencies (please provide the name of position and what agency you have got it from)?*
- *How many people you have recommended to the board and how many have been appointed?*
- *What is your process of selecting the candidate before recommending to the board?*

Part of the role of the Office of Disability Issues (ODI) is to help facilitate effective working relationships between disabled people, the disability sector and government agencies. The ODI is often asked by appointing agencies to nominate disabled people for governance and advisory positions as part of its work in the sector and has set up a Nominations Database to further this aim. Throughout the year, government agencies will send out a list of board positions they have available, and the team at ODI will let those on the database know of the opportunity and how to apply.

Regarding the first two parts of your request, please see the attached **Appendix** for the following tables:

- **Table One:** Numbers of People on the Office for Disability Issues (ODI) Nominations Database
- **Table Two:** 2019 Board Opportunities
- **Table Three:** 2020 Board Opportunities
- **Table Four:** 2021 Board Opportunities

ODI does not make recommendations for board positions, therefore the third portion of your request is refused under section 18(e) of the Act as the requested information does not exist. I can inform you that we are continuing to improve our data collection and have recently started to record the number of people notified of each board position.

Agencies do not inform us if they shortlist or appoint our candidates. Unless an individual nominee chooses to tell us they were successful in gaining a board position, we do not know the outcome of their nomination, therefore this portion of your request is refused under Section 18 (g) of the Act as the information you have requested is not held by the Ministry.

As ODI does not make recommendations about who to appoint to various positions, the fourth portion of your request is also refused under section 18(e) of the Act. Instead of making recommendations for positions, we match candidates to positions based upon the information provided to us in initial survey responses, CVs and covering letters. This is matched alongside information provided by appointing agencies in their requests for Expressions of Interest.

It is the responsibility of the advertising agency and/or their Minister to then decide who they will appoint to the board. Information provided by ODI may be only one source of nominations that they consider.

Matching can occur in several ways, and every disabled person on the database will have been nominated at least once:

- (a) The Minister making the appointment may ask for a set number of names of people with specified skills to be put forward for a board position. When this is the case, the team at ODI will match candidates and put forward the required number of names.
- (b) The Minister making the appointment may ask for Expressions of Interest from people with a certain skill set, but not ask nominating agencies to shortlist their candidates. ODI will match the people on our database who have the requested skills. ODI will email these people and suggest they may like to apply for the position.
- (c) Sometimes, positions are so general in nature that no specific technical skills or qualifications are required, other than having lived experience of disability. Where this is the case the vacancy is sent to everyone on the database at that time.

In terms of matching clients and board positions, it is not always possible to tell how many vacancies there are on a board. Sometimes we are informed of the exact number and at other times the description will describe multiple vacancies. Where the number of vacancies is known, this information is enclosed through **Table One, Two and Three**. If no number is provided and the term 'multiple' does not appear, we assume there is only one vacancy on the board.

The principles and purposes of the Act under which you made your request are:

- to create greater openness and transparency about the plans, work and activities of the Government
- to increase the ability of the public to participate in the making and administration of our laws and policies
- to lead to greater accountability in the conduct of public affairs.

This Ministry fully supports those principles and purposes. The Ministry therefore intends to make the information contained in this letter and any attached documents available to the wider public. The Ministry will do this by publishing this letter and attachments on the Ministry of Social Development's website. Your personal details will be deleted and the Ministry will not publish any information that would identify you as the person who requested the information.

If you wish to discuss this response with us, please feel free to contact [OIA\\_Requests@msd.govt.nz](mailto:OIA_Requests@msd.govt.nz).

If you are not satisfied with this response regarding the Office for Disabilities Nominations Database, you have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman. Information about how to make a complaint is available at [www.ombudsman.parliament.nz](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz) or 0800 802 602.

Nāku noa, nā



Brian Coffey  
**Director**  
**Office for Disability Issues**



## Appendix

**Table One:** Numbers of People on the Office for Disability Issues Database

Year	Disabled People	Family/Whanau	Incomplete	Total
<b>2019</b>	171	9	2	<b>181</b>
<b>2020</b>	175	9	2	<b>186</b>
<b>2021</b>	179	11	2	<b>192</b>
<b>2022*</b>	178	11	3	<b>192</b>

\*As at 22 April 2022

**Table Two:** 2019 Board Opportunities

*19 Opportunities across 9 organisations*

Board	Appointing Agency
Trans-Tasman IP Attorneys Board Chairperson	MBIE
Internet New Zealand Advisory Panel	InternetNZ
Regenerate Christchurch Board	MBIE
Te Pou Advisory Group	Te Pou
Surveying Licencing Board of New Zealand	LINZ
Valuers Registration Board	LINZ
Geographers Board	LINZ
Standards Review Working Group	MOH
Careerforce Advisory Board	MOH
Fertility Service Standards Board	MOH
Pharmaceutical Management Agency	MOH
Health Research Council	MOH
Christchurch Cathedral Reinstatement Review Panel	DPMC
New Zealand Walking Access Board Chair	MPI
Digital Access Board	DIA

Waste Advisory Board	MFE
Occupational Therapy Community Board	MOH
Practitioners Disciplinary Tribunal	MOH
New Zealand Psychologists Board	MOH

**Table Three:** 2020 Board Opportunities

*7 Opportunities in 2020 across five organisations. An election and the presence of Covid-19, causing multiple lockdowns most likely contributed to the reduced number of Nomination opportunities this year.*

<b>Board</b>	<b>Appointing Agency</b>
Science Board	MBIE
Next Generations Critical Communication Board	NZ Police
New Zealand Lottery Grants Board	DIA
Oranga Tamariki Residence Grievance Panels	OT
Southern Health and Disability Ethics Committee	MOH
New Zealand Growth Capital Partners Board	MBIE
Northern Health and Disability Ethics Board	MOH

**Table Four:** 2021 Board Opportunities

*Over 141 positions over 46 Boards for 13 organisations*

<b>Board</b>	<b>Appointing Agency</b>
Institute of Environmental Science and Research Ltd (ESR)	MBIE
Institute of Geological and Nuclear Sciences Ltd (GNS Science)	MBIE
Manaaki Whenua Landcare Research New Zealand Ltd	MBIE
National Institute of Water and Atmospheric Research Ltd (NIWA)	MBIE
New Zealand Institute of Plant and Food Research Ltd	MBIE
New Zealand Forest Research Institute Ltd (Scion)	MBIE
Research Education Advanced Network New Zealand Ltd	MBIE
Callaghan Innovation	MBIE
Regional Skills Leadership Group (multiple Positions)	MBIE

New Zealand Story Advisory Group	MBIE
Television New Zealand Board	Treasury
National Commission for UNESCO Board	MOE
Hawkes Bay Airport Board	Treasury
Transpower Board	Treasury
New Zealand Post Board	Treasury
Health Sector Boards (50 Positions)	MOH
Worksafe Board	MBIE
Royal Commission of Enquiry into Terrorist Attacks	DPMC
Public Service Commission Investigations Panels (2 Positions)	PSC
End of Life Choice Statutory Committee (multiple positions)	MOH
Institute of Environmental Science and Research Board	MBIE
Institute of Geological Institute board of sciences Director	MBIE
Maanaki Whenua Landcare Research Board Chair and Directors	MBIE
National Institute of Water and Atmospheric Pressure Board	MBIE
New Zealand Forest Research Institute Board Director	MBIE
New Zealand Institute for Plant and Food Board Director	MBIE
Research Education Advanced Network Board Director	MBIE
Adjudicators Motor Vehicle Disputes Tribunal (2 Positions)	MBIE
Education Curriculum Board	MOE
Worksafe New Zealand	MBIE
Forestry Ministerial Advisory Group	MPI
Maori Health Authority Interim Board	DPMC
New Zealand Health Interim Board	DPMC
Pharmac Board (multiple positions)	Pharmac
Chair of Electricity Authority Board	MBIE
Media Board	MHC
Remuneration Board (3 Positions)	Treasury
Kaitiaki Alexander Turnbull Library	DIA
Library and Information Advisory Commission	DIA

Plumbers, Gasfitters and Drainlayers Board	MBIE
Civil Aviation Board	Treasury
Milford Opportunities Feasibility and Testing Board	Milford Opportunities
Electoral Review Board	MOJ
Conservation Board (43 Positions)	DOC
Regulated Products Appeals Committee	MBIE
Smokefree and Vaping Board	MOH

### **List of Abbreviations used**

DIA	Department of Internal Affairs
DOC	Department of Conservation
DPMC	Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet
LINZ	Land Information New Zealand
MBIE	Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment
MFE	Ministry for the Environment
MHC	Ministry of Heritage and Culture
MOE	Ministry of Education
MOH	Ministry of Health
MOJ	Ministry of Justice
MPI	Ministry of Primary Industries
OT	Oranga Tamariki
PSC	Public Services Commission

