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9 May 2023

James

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Ref: H2023021713  
H2023023611  
H2023022483

Tēnā koe James

### **Response to your request for official information**

This letter responds to three further requests you have made regarding the appointment of the Director of the Suicide Prevention Office, under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) to Manatū Hauora (the Ministry of Health). These requests were made on 13 March, 23 March, and 16 April 2023.

For ease of reference, appended to this letter are copies of your requests.

Manatū Hauora takes its obligations under the Act seriously. It is important that the public has trust and confidence in the Ministry's recruitment processes and the appointment of its staff. The public must also be confident that we will protect individual's personal information. This includes information about former, current, and potential staff.

Manatū Hauora stands by the appointment of the Director and the process that was followed. We have released a range of information to you previously and in this response so that the public can be confident in the appointment process followed. However, Manatū Hauora is also withholding information, in order to protect the privacy of the individuals concerned and recognising that the greater public interest is in former, current and future staff knowing that an application for a role at the Ministry does not mean that their personal information will be released publicly.

The Ministry is satisfied that a standard recruitment process showed Matthew Tukaki was the best candidate for the advertised position of Director of the Suicide Prevention Office. Due diligence was followed to confirm Mr Tukaki's experience in suicide prevention work and his suitability for the role. As part of this recruitment process, the Ministry checked Mr Tukaki's recent and relevant employment history.

I have addressed each of your request in further detail below.

### **H2023021713 and H2023023611**

The Ministry understands this is a follow-up to your earlier request for information (H2023019104 refers). Information in Mr Tukaki's application and a copy of his CV is withheld under the following sections of the Act:

- section 9(2)(a) of the Act – to protect the privacy of natural persons; and
- section 9(2)(ba)(i) – to protect information which was subject to an obligation of confidence or which any person has been or could be compelled to provide under the authority of any enactment.

I have considered the countervailing public interest in release in making this decision and consider that it does not outweigh the need to withhold at this time.

While Mr Tukaki's CV had been previously released following an investigation under the Ombudsmen Act 1975, the Ombudsman's view on the facts of a particular case should not be taken as establishing any legal precedent in future requests. The Ministry continues to consider these documents as subject to confidentiality in accordance with the Ministry's recruitment process, and privacy requirements associated with that process. The decision to release this information at the time was also made in consultation with Mr Tukaki.

I am also satisfied that our previous response to you (H2023019104 refers) has addressed this question and consider the matter resolved.

### **H2023022483**

Please find attached a copy of the job description for the Director Suicide Prevention role, as advertised in April 2022. The position was advertised internally and externally from 5 to 22 April 2022.

As advised in our previous response to you (H2022018477 refers), Mr Tukaki was one of 22 applicants for the position, and one of three people who interviewed for the Director position at the Suicide Prevention Office. The interview panel consisted of Deputy Chief Executive of Sector Support, the Deputy Director-General of Māori Health, the Deputy Director-General of Mental Health and Addiction, and the Chief Clinical Advisor of Mental Health and Addiction. No specific declarations of interest were made by the panel members in relation to this recruitment process.

Following these interviews, the panel selected Mr Tukaki as the suitable candidate for the role. This was due to his experience in a similar role in Australia, his strong leadership skills, experience working across agencies, his strategic vision, and his media experience.

Following Mr Tukaki's selection as the preferred candidate, reference and police checks were undertaken as per the standard recruitment process at Manatū Hauora. Four reference checks were conducted, which were all very positive. Mr Tukaki was then offered the role with a commencement date of 1 July 2022.

All other information regarding the advertising of this position has been deemed outside the scope of your request as it is administrative in nature; for example, the human resource team arranging the advertisement.

As noted earlier, the Ministry has released a large amount of information regarding the recruitment process and Mr Tukaki's application and appointment to the role. I am not prepared to release further detailed information including correspondence with the individual in applying for the position under sections 9(2)(a) and 9(2)(ba)(i) of the Act. Such information is personal to the individual and the greater public interest is in the Ministry maintaining the confidence of current and future employees.

I trust this information fulfils your requests. Under section 28(3) of the Act, you have the right to ask the Ombudsman to review any decisions made under this request. The Ombudsman may be contacted by email at: [info@ombudsman.parliament.nz](mailto:info@ombudsman.parliament.nz) or by calling 0800 802 602.

Please note that this response, with your personal details removed, may be published on the Manatū Hauora website at: [www.health.govt.nz/about-ministry/information-releases/responses-official-information-act-requests](http://www.health.govt.nz/about-ministry/information-releases/responses-official-information-act-requests).

Nāku noa, nā

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'RS' or similar initials, written in a cursive style.

Robyn Shearer

**Deputy Chief Executive and Deputy Director-General**  
**Te Pou Mahi Pūnaha | System Performance and Monitoring**

## Appendix 1: Details of OIA requests

#	Reference #	Date received	Requested information
1	H2023021713	13 March 2023	<p><i>As per my previous request which was too generic, under the OIA I specifically seek clarification regarding the University and Tertiary education qualifications of Matthew Tukaki which were listed in his bio of the Annual Report for Suicide Prevention Australia.</i></p> <p><i>In Matthew Tukaki's previous role for Suicide Prevention Australia he clearly states in the annual financial report June 30, 2020 which is publicly available online, his University and Tertiary qualifications as the following:</i></p> <p><i>Post Graduate Diploma in Diplomacy and Negotiations (VU), Bachelor of Management Studies (BMS,WU), NZ Certificate in Business (BOP/MT), International Government Certificate in Knowledge Management (IGKM).</i></p> <p><i>Please provide any University or Tertiary qualifications Mr Tukaki listed on either his application for the role of Director of Suicide Prevention, Or in his CV he submitted for this role.</i></p> <p><i>If Mr Tukaki listed University or Tertiary qualifications, please confirm if they were all checked and confirmed with each Institution as part of the recruitment process at the time of application, if not, why not?</i></p>
2	H2023022483	23 March 2023	<p><i>Please provide the job description as listed and advertised for the role of Director of Suicide Prevention in 2022 by the Ministry of Health.</i></p> <p><i>Please provide the date, both internally and externally the job advertisement for the role of Director of Suicide Prevention was posted and the date applications opened and closed for the same role.</i></p> <p><i>All correspondence including but not limited to emails, texts and phone calls involving Matthew Tukaki and the role of Director of Suicide Prevention on or before the date of applications officially opened for the role.</i></p>

#	Reference #	Date received	Requested information
			<p><i>Please provide details of any meetings that Mr Tukaki had with Ministry of Health staff concerning the role Director of Suicide Prevention between October 2021 and April 29th 2022.</i></p> <p><i>All communications including but not limited to texts, emails and phone calls discussing that the role of Director of Suicide Prevention was to be taken to market, final notification and authorisation that the role of Director of Suicide Prevention could be officially advertised. This should include the dates of these events.</i></p> <p><i>All communications including but not limited to text, emails and phone calls between Dr Arran Culver and Mr Tukaki prior to April 29th.</i></p> <p><i>The names of the 3 members of the interview panel.</i></p> <p><i>Any declarations of interest declared by Mr Tukaki and or the 3 member interview panel.</i></p>
3	H2023023611	16 April 2023	<p><i>Under the OIA, please provide Matthew Tukaki's CV.</i></p> <p><i>This has already been released after the involvement of Ombudsman and Mr Tukaki's work history is online and viewable to the public via his LinkedIn page.</i></p>