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OIA-2021-4117

7 July 2021

John Luke
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Dear John Luke

I refer to your request of 11 June 2021, under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA), for the following:

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 Defence Force or relevant Minister.

In your list, can you please included the date that vacancy been advertised, what method you have used to publicly advertise the position and when the vacancy been closed as well.

Also, I would like to know if you have any future opening in 2021. e.g. the position that will call for nomination in the year of 2021.

Generally speaking, how you publicly call for nomination and what platform you are using to ensure the public awareness of your state sector board vacancy.

Minister of Defence

Defence Employer Support Council (DESC)

The DESC liaises with the Minister of Defence on matters related to Reserves and New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF) youth programmes. More information regarding the DESC is available online.¹

There are ten appointed members, one of whom is an NZDF representative. The current membership was appointed on 24 July 2019, for a two year term from the appointment date, and has been reappointed for a second term.

There is one vacancy. This was advertised via the Institute of Directors (19 April – 11 June) and Appoint Better Boards (26 April – 28 May).

Defence Industry Advisory Council

The New Zealand Defence Industry Advisory Council is a non-statutory Ministerial advisory board. The Council provides the Minister of Defence with defence industry advice on matters such as investment, market and workforce capability, and science and technology. As a non-statutory board, Council members, their term of appointment, and their number

¹ www.desc.govt.nz/home-2/

are at the discretion of the Minister of Defence. Currently, there are eight members. Council members receive no fees or reimbursements.

Minister for Veterans

Three statutory boards were established under the Veterans' Support Act 2014: the Veterans' Advisory Board (VAB); the Veterans' Health Advisory Panel (VHAP); and the Veterans' Entitlements Appeal Board (VEAB).²

Appointment to these boards is by the Minister for Veterans. Membership parameters are set by the legislation which requires, for example, appointment to be representative of the veteran community (VAB); inclusion of legal and/or health professionals (VHAP and VEAB); inclusion of representatives nominated by the NZDF, the RNZRSA, or Veterans' Affairs (VAB, VEAB and VHAP); or inclusion of representatives from other boards (VHAP).

The Minister for Veterans is also able to appoint a Chair to the Viet Nam Veterans and Their Families Trust, a body that was set up as a result of a Memorandum of Understanding between the Crown and Vietnam veterans in 2007.

None of these boards currently have vacancies where the nomination period has closed but the nomination is still under consideration by Veterans' Affairs, the NZDF, or the Minister for Veterans. There will be one vacancy falling due late in 2021, for a medical practitioner member of the VEAB. Another opening may become available in 2021, for the VHAP.

Because of the specialist nature of these boards, and the Trust, a variety of methods have been used in the past to source suitable candidates, such as:

- Advertising in national newspapers
- Using the Ministry for Women's nominations service
- Locating candidates with suitable background, experience, or qualifications through approaches to potential candidates who are known within the veteran, health, or legal sectors; and to check whether those individuals might be willing to serve.

Ensuring diversity is one of the criteria used when candidates are being sought, in addition to their technical qualifications.

You have the right, under section 28(3) of the OIA, to ask an Ombudsman to review this response to your request.

Yours sincerely



AJ WOODS
Air Commodore
Chief of Staff HQNZDF

² www.veteransaffairs.mil.nz/about-veterans-affairs/our-partners-and-the-veteran-sector/boards-and-panels/