

Hon Meka Whaitiri

MP for Ikaroa-Rāwhiti

Minister of Customs

Minister for Food Safety

Minister for Veterans

Associate Minister of Agriculture (Animal Welfare)

Associate Minister of Statistics



John Luke

fyi-request-21080-80b186a5@requests.fyi.org.nz

Tēnā koe John

Thank you for your email of 14 October 2022 to the Ministry of Primary Industries (MPI) requesting information relating to the appointment of a Member to the National Animal Welfare Advisory Committee. Your request has been considered under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA).

On 14 November 2022, your request was transferred to my Office to offer a response pursuant to section 14(b)(ii), because the information you are seeking is more closely connected with the functions of my Office.

You requested the following:

I noted,- Appointment of a Member to the National Animal Welfare Advisory Committee (Notice No. MPI 1532) 2 <https://gazette.govt.nz/notice/id/2022-go4744>

- *May I ask how did you call for public nomination and on what platform you have call 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 of women etc. further, how many you have shortlisted.*
- *I am also requesting the position description of this role and the pay rate.*

As you are aware, appointments to the National Animal Welfare Advisory Committee (NAWAC) are made by me as the Associate Minister of Agriculture (Animal Welfare).

Pursuant to sections 58 and 59 of the Animal Welfare Act 1999 (the Act), Dr Matthew Stone was appointed chairperson of the National Animal Welfare Advisory Committee following publication of a notice in the New Zealand Gazette on 4 November 2022.

Section 58 of the Act outlines the requirements for member's knowledge and expertise. Unlike regular members, the Act does not set requirements for the expertise or experience required by the NAWAC Chair. This position requires someone with appropriate leadership expertise and deep knowledge of New Zealand's regulatory environment, and who understands the complexities of animal welfare.

I consider that an appropriate process was followed in selecting the proposed appointee. The Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) Animal Welfare team organises the appointment process for the NAWAC.

The vacancy was advertised across a range of networks, including the 'govt.jobs.nz' website and MPI Careers portal and one application was received from the public. MPI also reviewed all the applications and nominations received for regular committee member for both NAWAC and the National Animal Ethics Advisory Committee (NAEAC), including those sought from the Ministry for Women, Te Puni Kōkiri, the Ministry for Pacific Peoples, Ministry for Ethnic Communities, and the Office for Disability Issues.

The Ministry for Women provided an endorsement for two individuals, neither of whom applied for the vacancies. Te Puni Kōkiri put forward two nominees but neither were suitable for appointment. The Ministry for Pacific Peoples advised that it did not have any suitable candidates. The Ministry for Ethnic Communities and the Office for Disability Issues did not respond.

Additionally, nominations from Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) senior leaders (including Director Animal Health and Welfare) were put forward for consideration.

Following advice from MPI and consultation with the Minister of Agriculture, I outlined my intention to appoint Dr Matthew Stone as the Chair of NAWAC on a three-year term to the Cabinet Appointments and Honours Committee (APH) on 28 September. The APH approval was subsequently then ratified by Cabinet.

In response to the second part of your request, Please find the position description that was published on the govt.jobs.nz website from 19 to 29 April 2022 attached for you as Appendix One. Please note, the Committee is classified as a Group 4, Level 2 committee under the Cabinet Fees Framework. The fee for the Chairperson is \$550 per day and members can claim back specified expenses, which is consistent with the Fees Framework.

The annual fee totals of NAWAC members are published in the committee's annual reports. These reports are available to view publicly at <https://www.nawac.org.nz/>.

I trust the information provided is of assistance. You are advised of your right to raise any concerns with the Office of the Ombudsman. You can contact the Ombudsman at info@ombudsman.parliament.nz.

Nāku noa, nā



Hon Meka Whaitiri
Associate Minister of Agriculture (Animal Welfare)