



10 March 2023

Tēnā koe

On 11 February 2023, you emailed the Ministry of Social Development (the Ministry) requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) information. You referred to my letter to you of 25 November 2022 and in regard to the appointment of Benefits Review Committee (BRC) Community Representatives for the Auckland region, you asked:

- *Has this been completed, please provide any relevant updates regarding this matter.*
- *Also, can you please let me know what is your selection process for your "selection and interviewing panel" and their pay rate.*
- *Do you call for public nomination for your "selection and interviewing panel", if so via what means, e.g. jobs.govt.nz.*
- *Further, please provide the term of reference for your "selection and interviewing panel"*

Unfortunately, since I wrote to you in November last year, recruitment for BRC Community Representatives for the Auckland region has not been completed. In saying that, however, there is a pool of Community Representatives and the BRC continues to carry out its functions. You are welcome to write again in about two or three months' time to enquire about progress in this matter.

There are no calls for public nominations for the interviewing and selection panel. It may be helpful for you to know that the selection and interview panel is temporary and ceases to exist post-selection of the preferred Community Representative nominees.

There are no terms of reference in relation to the interviewing and selection panel. Your request is therefore refused under section 18(g) of the Act as the information you requested is not held by the Ministry and I have no grounds to believe that the information is either held by or closely connected to the functions of another department, Minister of the Crown or organisation.

I sent you the pay rates when I wrote to you in November and the information is still available here: www.msd.govt.nz/documents/about-msd-and-our-work/contact-us/complaints/community-representative-information-pack.pdf.

The principles and purposes of the Official Information Act 1982 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 and
- 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 on the Ministry'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.

If you are not satisfied with this response about the appointment of Benefits Review Committee (BRC) Community Representatives for the Auckland region, 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 or 0800 802 602.

Ngā mihi nui


Diane Anderson
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