



9 September 2025

Tēnā koe

Official Information Act request

Thank you for your email of 13 August 2025, requesting an update on member appointments for the Social Security Appeals Authority. In this request, you referred to information released to you on 13 August 2025 about the Public Sector Boards and Committees within the Social Development and Employment Ministerial Portfolio. For ease of reference, we have provided a link to that response here: www.fyi.org.nz/request/32008-social-security-appeals-authority.

In our response dated 13 August 2025, we noted that the terms of five members of the Social Security Appeals Authority (the Authority) expired between 1 January and 20 July 2025. We also advised that an appointment process was underway and that, under Schedule 8, clause 2(2) of the Social Security Act 2018 (the Act), these members will continue in their positions until they are reappointed, successors are appointed, or they are advised a replacement will not be appointed.

I have now considered your recent request for the additional information you have sought regarding that process under the Official Information Act 1982. Please find my decision on each part of your request set out separately below.

- *Can you please provide update on this appointment process, how many applications you have received, how many you have shortlisted, how many you have interviewed.*

Fifty-two applications were received for this appointment process. Seven candidates were shortlisted and interviewed.

- *What stage is currently at.*

The interviews for the Authority were being completed at the time of your request.

The completion of the appointment process will take approximately 2–3 months. The timing depends on the subsequent steps, which include consideration of candidates by the Minister for Social Development and Employment, statutory consultation (under Schedule 8, clause 1(2) of the Act) with the Minister of Justice, consideration by the Cabinet Appointments and Honours Committee, and submitting appointment advice to the Governor-General, who makes the appointments under Schedule 8, clause 1(2) of the Act.

- *Copy of your ad for this round, where you have advertised the positions at*

We have attached a copy of the advertisement as an **Appendix**.

We advertised the position via the Seek website and the Council of Australasian Tribunals (COAT) website. Although the application period has now ended, the COAT advertisement is still publicly available on their website, here: www.coat.asn.au/job-vacancies/.

In addition, the advertisement was forwarded to members of Benefits Review Committees. More information on Benefits Review Committees is available here: www.govt.nz/organisations/benefits-review-committee/.

I will be publishing this decision letter, with your personal details deleted, on the Ministry's website in due course.

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 my decision on your request, 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

pp. 

Anna Graham
General Manager
Ministerial and Executive Services

Appendix - Social Security Appeal Authority members advertisement text

Applications for members of the Social Security Appeal Authority

Applications are sought for members of the Social Security Appeal Authority (the Authority). This is an opportunity to make an important contribution as part of an appeals process that helps ensure appropriate decisions are made on individual's income support entitlements.

The Authority hears appeals against entitlement decisions made by the Ministry of Social Development which have already been reviewed by a local Benefit Review Committee. The Authority's membership needs to have a diverse range of expertise and experience to provide well-rounded, legally robust appeal decisions.

The Authority is governed by and operates under Schedule 8 of the Social Security Act 2018. Members are appointed by the Governor-General on the recommendation of the Minister for Social Development and Employment following consultation with the Minister of Justice.

This could provide an opportunity for someone to develop more tribunal or appeals experience, or to give back through public service.

Candidates are sought with either legal expertise or social sector experience and community connections. For more information on what knowledge, skills and experience members are expected to have, please see the position description: [Member Position Description](#)

Next Steps

To be considered for appointment please apply by providing the following:

- a short cover letter
- a current curriculum vitae
- contact details, including email address and phone number.

As part of your application, please let us know where you saw this role advertised.

Applications are due by **5.00pm** on **Sunday 27 July 2025** via email to appointments@msd.govt.nz