



24 May 2024

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Ref: OIA-2023/24-0875

Dear [REDACTED]

**Official Information Act request relating to Commissioner for Parliamentary Standards**

Thank you for your Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) request received on 17 May 2024. You requested:

*“Rt Hon Christopher Luxon, Minister for Ministerial Services Hon Nicola Willis, Minister for the Public Service Hon Chris Bishop, Leader of the House Hon Simeon Brown, Deputy Leader of the House Ben King, Chief Executive of the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet*

*Tēnā koutou,*

*I request from each of you, to the extent applicable, all relevant information concerning the current status and functions of the Commissioner for Parliamentary Standards, announced by media release on 19 August 2022, including but not limited to:*

- Who the current Commissioner is, if any;*
- The functions and role of the Commissioner, if any;*
- The salary of the Commissioner, if any;*
- The legal status of the Commissioner, including whether they are formally an Officer of Parliament, who they are answerable to, and what legislation or other source empowers their functions, if any;*
- What actions the Commissioner has taken to date in the performance of their functions, if any; and*
- Any other relevant information which you see fit to provide.*

*If my request has been directed to the wrong place, I remind you of your respective obligations under s 13 of the Official Information Act to provide me with reasonable assistance to direct my request to the appropriate place. I trust that Mr Luxon, as Minister for Ministerial Services, (or his office) will hold at least some of the information requested given the draft protocol indicates that liaising with the Commissioner falls within his portfolio (see cl 5.2 of the draft protocol dated March 2022). If this has changed since the draft protocol, please direct me to the responsible minister pursuant to s 13 as above.*

*I further remind you of your obligations under s 18B of the Act to consider consulting me if my request is likely to be refused, to provide me with an opportunity to reframe my request before it is refused.*

*If the request is refused I intend to refer the matter to the Ombudsman.”*

The Commissioner for Parliamentary Standards was appointed by the Speaker based on a recommendation from the Parliamentary Service Commission.

The Parliamentary Service Commission and the Parliamentary Service were established by the Parliamentary Service Act 1985 and continue under the provisions of the Parliamentary Service Act 2000. The Speaker, Parliamentary Service and the Parliamentary Service Commission are not subject to the Act.

We do not hold information relevant to your request, and we do not believe there is anyone subject to the Act who is likely to hold the information you have requested. Accordingly, your request is refused under section 18(g) of the Act on the basis that the information is not held by DPMC, and we have no grounds for believing the information is held by an agency covered by the Act.

However, under section 13 of the Act, we are able to provide you with some helpful information and links below.

As announced in the media release published on 19 August 2022, Lyn Provost was announced as the new appointee in the role of Commissioner for Parliamentary Standards. The appointment became effective on 1 January 2023, and is for a five year term - <https://www.parliament.nz/en/visit-and-learn/how-parliament-works/office-of-the-speaker/press-releases/former-auditor-general-appointed-as-independent-commissioner-for-parliamentary-standards-appointed/>.

We have also attached the Protocol for the Commissioner for Parliamentary Standards, which is publicly available on the Parliament website – <https://www.parliament.nz/mi/footer/about-us/parliaments-workplace-culture/protocol-for-the-commissioner-for-parliamentary-standards/>.

You have the right to ask the Ombudsman to investigate and review my decision under section 28(3) of the Act.

This response will be published on the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet's website during our regular publication cycle. Typically, information is released monthly, or as otherwise determined. Your personal information including name and contact details will be removed for publication.

Yours sincerely



Clare Ward  
**Executive Director**  
**Strategy, Governance and Engagement**