



EXECUTIVE COUNCIL CHAMBERS

20 July 2026

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Ref: OIA-2025/26-0858

Tēnā koe [REDACTED]

Official Information Act request: Selection of process of the Governor General and guidelines to Executive Council

On 26 June 2026 the Public Service Commission transferred part of your request to the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (DPMC) under section 14 of the Official Information Act (the Act). You requested:

(1) What is the selection process of the Governor General?

– Are expressions of interest taken?

– Who selects candidates?

– Who makes the appointment decisions?

Can you please forward the codes/statute section – as the framework itself is a matter of integrity, and fairness.

(2) ...guidelines to the Executive Council (and administrations) on the non-politicisation of administrations by the Executive

Response to your request

The Governor-General is appointed by the Sovereign of New Zealand, on the advice of the Prime Minister of New Zealand. By longstanding convention, the selection of the person to be the next Governor-General is a matter for the Prime Minister of the day.

The Cabinet Office provides support to the Prime Minister throughout the consideration and appointment process. As this is a decision for the Prime Minister, the selection process and the nature of the support offered by the Cabinet Office may change depending on the preference of the Prime Minister of the day, but it may include providing an overview of the selection and appointment process, providing information about the role, advice about timing considerations, and facilitating the formal requirements to complete the appointment. Expressions of interest are not taken.

The relevant part of the legal instrument for appointment of the Governor-General is clause 2 of the Letters Patent Constituting the Office of Governor-General of New Zealand (the Letters

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DEPARTMENT OF THE PRIME MINISTER AND CABINET

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Patent). The Letters Patent are included in Appendix B of the Cabinet Manual 2023. A copy of the Cabinet Manual 2023 accompanies this letter.

I have interpreted your reference to Executive Council in part 2 of your request to mean Ministers of the Crown. No documents specific to the Executive Council exist, however the Cabinet Manual 2023, particularly Chapter 3, *Ministers of the Crown and the Public Sector*, sets out relevant guidance on the relationship between Ministers and the public sector, including integrity and conduct, political neutrality, and free and frank advice.

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.

Nāku noa, nā



Rachel Hayward
Clerk of the Executive Council