



29 January 2025

OIAD-1448

9(2)(a)

Tēnā koe 9(2)(a)

Thank you for your request of 14 January 2025 to the Ministry for the Environment (the Ministry) for the following under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

Please provide:

- *All information relating to the procurement of candidates and appointment of the Fast Track Panel Convenor, and Associate Panel Convenors.*
- *All information, relating to the procurement of candidates and appointment of members of Fast Track Expert Panel(s).*

Schedule 3 of the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024 provides detailed information about the appointment of panel convenors and the membership of panels, as well as information relating to expert panel procedures. This information can be accessed on the New Zealand Legislation website at: legislation.govt.nz/act/public/2024/0056/latest/LMS943348.html.

Ministers have not yet made decisions regarding the appointment of the fast-track panel convenor or associate panel convenors. Once appointed, the panel convenor will be responsible for appointing members to expert panels. The selection of panel members will be based on applications and/or nominations.

At this time, any information held by the Ministry regarding potential candidates for the roles of fast-track panel convenor, associate panel convenors, or members of expert panels must be withheld under section 9(2)(f)(iv), to maintain the constitutional conventions for the time being which protect the confidentiality of advice tendered by Ministers of the Crown and officials.

Please be assured that we intend to proactively release information about appointments once decisions have been made by Ministers and Cabinet. We anticipate that a panel convenor will be appointed in early February.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Office of the Ombudsman of my decision to withhold information relating to this request, in accordance with section 28(3) of the Act. The relevant details can be found on their website at: www.ombudsman.parliament.nz.

Please note that due to the public interest in our work the Ministry for the Environment publishes responses to requests for official information on our [OIA responses page](#) shortly after the response has been sent. If you have any queries about this, please feel free to contact our Ministerial Services team: ministerials@mfe.govt.nz.

Nāku noa, nā

Ray Salter
Acting Manager – Fast Track Delivery
Ministry for the Environment | Manatū Mō Te Taiao