



IN CONFIDENCE

Appointment: Deputy State Services Commissioner

Date: 6 December 2018

Report No: SSC2018/1124

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	Action Sought	Deadline
Hon Chris Hipkins Minister of State Services	Sign and lodge the attached Cabinet Appointments and Honours Committee (APH) papers	By Monday 10 December 2018
Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern Prime Minister	Sign the attached APH papers	By Monday 10 December 2018

Enclosure: Yes

Executive Summary

- 1 This paper notes your intention to recommend that the Governor-General appoint Mr John Ombler as the Deputy State Services Commissioner on a short-term basis from 4 February 2019 to 30 June 2019. The position will become vacant on 4 February 2019, when Ms Debbie Power commences in the role of Chief Executive, Minister of Social Development.

Recommended Action

We recommend that you:

- a **sign** the attached APH paper regarding the appointment of Mr John Ombler QSO as the Deputy State Services Commissioner, for consideration by APH on 12 December 2018.

Lodged / not lodged

- b **sign and lodge** the attached APH paper regarding the appointment of Mr John Ombler QSO as the Deputy State Services Commissioner, for consideration by APH on 12 December 2018.

Lodged / not lodged

Hon Chris Hipkins
Minister of State Services

Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern
Prime Minister

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Office of the Prime Minister
Office of the Minister of State Services

Chair, Cabinet Appointments and Honours Committee

Deputy State Services Commissioner: Short-term Appointment

Proposal

- 1 It is proposed that the Cabinet Appointments and Honours Committee note:
 - 1.1 that the statutory role of Deputy State Services Commissioner will become vacant on 4 February 2019 when Ms Debbie Power becomes the Chief Executive, Ministry of Social Development; and
 - 1.2 the Prime Minister's intention to recommend that the Governor-General in Council appoint Mr John Ombler QSO as the Deputy State Services Commissioner for a short-term appointment from 4 February 2019 to 30 June 2019.

Deputy State Services Commissioner short-term appointment

- 2 Under section 12(1) of the State Sector Act 1988 (the Act), the Deputy State Services Commissioner is appointed by the Governor-General in Council on the recommendation of the Prime Minister.
- 3 The position of Deputy State Services Commissioner will become vacant on 4 February 2019, when Ms Debbie Power commences in the role of Chief Executive, Ministry of Social Development.
- 4 Section 12 of the Act states "there shall be an officer to be called the Deputy State Services Commissioner". Furthermore, having an officer that can exercise all or some of the powers of the State Services Commissioner, should he be absent, is necessary. It is considered, therefore, that in the period between Ms Power's departure and the commencement of a new Deputy State Services Commissioner, a short-term appointment should be made.

Recommended short-term appointee

- 5 The Prime Minister considers that Mr John Ombler QSO meets the requirement for appointment as the Deputy State Services Commissioner on a short-term basis, from 4 February 2019 when the position becomes vacant, until 30 June 2019 to enable a recruitment process to take place for a long-term appointment. In the event the appointment process for a long-term Deputy State Services Commissioner identifies a suitable candidate who is available to commence prior to 1 July 2019, Mr Ombler will resign his position earlier.
- 6 Mr Ombler is a very experienced and respected leader with 40 years' full time public service. Mr Ombler is currently a contractor, who has undertaken a range of work for the State Services Commission. From 2014 to 2016, he was the Acting Chief Executive of the Canterbury Earthquake Recovery Authority, until its disestablishment. From 2008 to 2013, he was the Deputy State Services Commissioner. He has also held other senior roles in the State Services Commission and the Department of Conservation.

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7 In 2013, he became a Companion of the Queen's Service Order (QSO) for services to the State.

Remuneration and terms of appointment

8 Section 15 of the Act states that remuneration of the Deputy State Services Commissioner and related conditions are determined by the Remuneration Authority. Other conditions of appointment, including leave and other entitlements, are agreed between the appointee and the State Services Commissioner.

9 The position of Deputy State Services Commissioner requires that the appointee be able to obtain and maintain a Top Secret Special security clearance. Due to the short term nature of the appointment of Mr Ombler, it is not practicable for him to obtain a Top Secret Special security clearance. Should issues arise requiring consideration, other State Services Commission staff hold the relevant clearance.

Publicity

10 The Minister of State Services will announce Mr Ombler's short-term appointment.

Recommendations

11 We recommend that the Cabinet Appointments and Honours Committee:

11.1 **note** the impending vacancy for the position of Deputy State Services Commissioner;

11.2 **note** that the Prime Minister intends to recommend that the Governor-General appoint Mr John **OMBLER** QSO as the Deputy State Services Commissioner on a short-term basis, from 4 February 2019, when the position becomes vacant, until 30 June 2019;

11.3 **note** that in the event the appointment process for a long-term Deputy State Services Commissioner identifies a suitable candidate who is available to commence prior to 1 July 2019, Mr Ombler will resign his position earlier;

11.4 **note** that due to the short-term nature of Mr Ombler's appointment, it is not practicable for him to obtain Top Secret Special security clearance; and

11.5 **note** that the remuneration of the Deputy State Services Commissioner is determined by the Remuneration Authority and other conditions of appointment, including leave, are agreed between the appointee and the State Services Commissioner.

Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern
Prime Minister

Hon Chris Hipkins
Minister of State Services

CURRICULUM VITAE

Mr John Ombler QSO

Employment History

2016-present	Independent Contractor Various contracting roles
2014-2016	Canterbury Earthquake Recovery Authority Acting Chief Executive
2013-2014	Independent Contractor Various contracting roles
2008-2013	State Services Commission Deputy State Services Commissioner
2007-2008	State Services Commission Deputy Commissioner, Corporate Services
2007	State Services Commission Acting Branch Manager, People Capability Branch
2005-2007	Department of Conservation General Manager, Research Development and Improvement
1997-2004	Department of Conservation Regional General Manager, Central Region
1994-1997	Department of Conservation Conservator (Auckland)
1989-1994	Department of Conservation Conservator (Hawkes Bay)
1987-1989	Department of Conservation Conservator (Whanganui)
1975-1987	Department of Lands and Survey Various positions

Academic Qualifications, Professional Memberships, and Honours

Current	Member, Institute of Directors in New Zealand
Current	Associate Fellow, New Zealand Institute of Management
2017-current	Trustee, New Zealand National Parks and Conservation Foundation
2014-2017	Director, Careers New Zealand
2013	Companion of the Queen's Service Order
1984	Diploma in Parks and Recreation, Lincoln University



In Executive Council

*Her Excellency the Governor-General is recommended to sign the
attached Order in Council appointing
JOHN STEWART OMBLER QSO
as Deputy State Services Commissioner
for a term commencing on 4 February 2019 and ending on
30 June 2019*

Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern
Prime Minister

Approved in Council

Patsy Reddy

M. J. W. W. W.
Clerk of the Executive Council

Date: 17 December 2018



APPOINTMENT OF DEPUTY STATE SERVICES COMMISSIONER

Patsy Reddy

Governor-General

PURSUANT to sections 12 and 13 of the State Sector Act 1988 I, the Right Honourable Dame Patsy Reddy GNZM, QSO, Governor-General of New Zealand, acting on the advice and with the consent of the Executive Council, and on the recommendation of the Prime Minister, hereby appoint:

JOHN STEWART OMBLER, a Companion of the Queen's Service Order
of Wanaka

to be the Deputy State Services Commissioner for a term commencing on 4 February 2019 and ending on 30 June 2019.

Given in Executive Council under the hand of Her Excellency the Governor-General this 17th day of *December* 2018.

Michael Webster

Clerk of the Executive Council