



Te Kawa Mataaho

Public Service Commission

24 February 2025

9(2)(a) privacy

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Official Information Request Our Ref: PSCR 2025-0149

I refer to your official information request received on 13 February 2025 where you have asked:

“why some Departments and Ministries have a Chief Executive, some have a Secretary, and some have both. Are you able to explain the difference in these to me please?”

Our response

All public service agencies have a chief executive, who leads the department. Some chief executives have other titles in addition to the title of chief executive, which are designated either in legislation or by the Public Service Commissioner (the Commissioner) as the employer of public service chief executives.

‘Secretary’ is one such designation and has been applied by the Commissioner to the chief executives of all public service departments where another specific designation (e.g. Director-General or Comptroller) does not already apply.

If you wish to discuss this decision with us, please feel free to contact Enquiries@publicservice.govt.nz.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this decision. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or freephone 0800 802 602.

Please note that we intend to publish this letter (with your personal details removed) on the Te Kawa Mataaho Public Service Commission’s website.

Yours sincerely

Nicky Dirks
Manager – Ministerial and Executive Services
Te Kawa Mataaho Public Service Commission