



# Te Kawa Mataaho

Public Service Commission

3 April 2025

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## Official Information Request

**Our Ref:** PSCR 2025-0365

I refer to your official information request received on 31 March 2025 for:

*...information regarding the hiring process of the new Director General of Health*

- 1. How many people applied for this position?*
- 2. Who applied for this position?*
- 3. How many expressions of interest were there?*

## Our Response

The Deputy Public Service Commissioner, Heather Baggott announced that Audrey Sonerson, who is currently the Acting Director-General of Health, has been transferred into the permanent role following the resignation of the previous Director-General in February.

The appointment of the Director-General of Health and Chief Executive, Ministry of Health, was made through the transfer provision in the Public Service Act 2020, Schedule 7 clause 6. Under this clause the Public Service Commissioner must:

- believe on reasonable grounds that the transfer would be in the public interest; and
- obtain the chief executive or Deputy Commissioner's agreement to the transfer; and
- consult the appropriate Ministers.

As the appointment was made under transfer provisions, no role was advertised and therefore no applications or expressions of interest were received.

I am therefore refusing your request in full under section 18(e) of the Official information Act 1982 (OIA) on the grounds the information requested does not exist.

## Information publicly available

The following information relating to your request will be publicly available soon on the Public Service Commission's website at the link provided for in the table below.

Item	Document Description	Website Address
1	Appointment Papers – Director General of Health and Chief Executive, Ministry of Health	<a href="#">Publications - Te Kawa Mataaho Public Service Commission</a>

If you wish to discuss this decision with us, please feel free to contact [Enquiries@publicservice.govt.nz](mailto: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](http://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**