



Te Kawa Mataaho

Public Service Commission

6 May 2025

9(2)(a) privacy

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Official Information Request

Our Ref: PSCR 2025-0422

I refer to your official information request received on 14 April 2025 for:

"I am seeking all documents relating to the appointment of the new director-general of the Ministry of Health, including but not limited to assessment of applications, a shortlist of candidates, recommended appointments, the APH paper, and the appointment papers for the minister".

Our Response

On 1 April 2025 the Deputy Public Service Commissioner, Heather Baggott, announced that Ms Audrey Sonerson, who was the Acting Director-General of Health, had been transferred into the permanent role following the resignation of the previous Director-General of Health in February 2025.

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 part of your request under section 18(e) of the Official information Act 1982 (OIA) on the grounds the information requested does not exist.

Information publicly available

The documents listed in the table below are publicly available on the Public Service Commission's (the 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	Publications - Te Kawa Mataaho Public Service Commission

I am therefore refusing this part of your request under section 18(d) of the OIA on the grounds the information requested is or soon will be publicly available.

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 Commission's website.

Yours sincerely



Nicky Dirks

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