



Te Kawa Mataaho

Public Service Commission

13 June 2025

9(2)(a) privacy

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Official Information Request Our Ref: PSCR 2025-0536

I refer to your official information request received on 17 May 2025 for:

“As per OIA 1982 & <https://www.stuff.co.nz/nz-news/360691599/remarkable-rise-and-fall-top-cop-embroiled-scandal>, requesting names of the other 7 people who applied for the Police Commissioner's role”.

Under section 12 of the Policing Act 2008, the Governor-General appoints the Commissioner of Police on the recommendation of the Prime Minister. The Commissioner of Police holds office at the pleasure of the Governor-General.

As required under section 14 of the Policing Act 2008, the Public Service Commissioner managed the appointment process on behalf of the Prime Minister and the Minister of Police.

Candidates applying for this role have an expectation that they will not be publicly scrutinised or criticised for applying for these roles, especially in a way that impacts their future career prospects. These people therefore have an expectation that their application is received and treated with the utmost confidentiality. All candidates' applications and personal information received during the application process is received and held in confidence.

Information being withheld

I have decided to withhold your request for the names of the applicants for the Commissioner of Police role in full under the following sections of the OIA, as applicable:

- section 9(2)(a) – to protect the privacy of individuals, including that of deceased natural persons
- section 9(2)(b)(ii) - protect information which is subject to an obligation of confidence or which any person has been or could be compelled to provide under the authority of any enactment, where the making available of the information would be likely otherwise to damage the public interest.

In making my decision, I have considered the public interest considerations in section 9(1) of the OIA and do not believe the privacy interest of applicants in their applications being held confidentially, outweighs the public interest in the release.

Any disclosures of this nature would also risk affecting the trust and confidence people have in our ability to perform the Public Service Commissioner's the statutory function of recruitment of chief executives and statutory officers.

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