



26 May 2020

Hon Dame Fran Wilde DNZM, QSO  
Chair  
Remuneration Authority  
PO Box 10084  
Wellington

Dear Dame Fran,

Thank you for your letter to the State Services Commissioner dated 17 March 2020 regarding the Authority's determination for the position of the Deputy State Services Commissioner. I have attached the information you have requested.

As you are aware, the State Services Commissioner has asked Public Service Chief Executives to accept remuneration restraint in recent years. As a chief executive then, and now as Deputy State Services Commissioner, I have modelled that same restraint and intend to continue to do so. I therefore request a nil increase in my remuneration for 2020.

I am aware that the Authority has statutory independence in its determinations and there are criteria you must apply in your decision-making, including that submissions will be taken into consideration. I hope my request for a nil increase is something that you are able to accommodate.

In April, public service Chief Executives, along with Ministers, agreed to voluntarily take a pay reduction of 20 per cent for six months. This was the right thing to do in acknowledgement of the circumstances many New Zealanders now find themselves as a result of the country's response to COVID-19. You are probably aware that, like many senior leaders across the public service, I have publicly committed to taking a similar reduction in pay.

I am aware that the Government has now put in place the mechanism for making these pay reductions, via the Remuneration Authority (COVID-19 Measures) Amendment Act, and that you intend to make your determinations in time to put them in place by 30 June 2020.

I understand that the Authority is currently working through the process of statutory decision making in line with the legislation. For the avoidance of doubt, I would like to make it clear that my preference is for the Authority to make a temporary reduction to my pay of 20 per cent for six months, in line with the reduction agreed by Public Service Chief Executives.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'HQ' with a stylized flourish.

Helene Quilter  
Deputy State Services Commissioner