



<b>Position</b>	Secretary for Children and Chief Executive
<b>Department</b>	Oranga Tamariki – Ministry for Children
<b>Purpose</b>	This guide provides information about the process for the recruitment and selection of the Secretary for Children and Chief Executive, Oranga Tamariki – Ministry for Children.
<b>Contact person</b>	If you have any questions during this process, please do not hesitate to contact the consultant supporting this recruitment:  Nick Ritchie, Strategic Advisor  E: <a href="mailto:nick.ritchie@publicservice.govt.nz">nick.ritchie@publicservice.govt.nz</a>  T: 021 314 896

## Public Service Leadership

**Leader Profile** Excellent leadership by Public Service Chief Executives is essential for a high performing, professional and world class public sector. Underpinning chief executive leadership is the requirement to adhere to the Standards of Integrity and Conduct and the higher bar expected of chief executive behaviour.

As set out in the Public Service Act 2020, chief executives are required to proactively promote stewardship of the public service, including of its long-term capability and people, institutional knowledge and information, system and processes, assets and the legislation they administer.

As system leaders, chief executives are responsible for achieving cross-agency, sector and system results by leading, collaborating and exerting their influence in a cohesive way across boundaries and ensuring their staff have both the authority and motivation to do likewise.

## Making an application

**General** Your application for this position should include:

- A short cover letter expressing interest in the position and your fit for the role.
- A current curriculum vitae detailing your work history (including dates and position titles), educational qualifications, and your preferred contact details.
- A fully completed application form.

Further information has been detailed below. You should make your application via email to [CErecruitment@publicservice.govt.nz](mailto:CErecruitment@publicservice.govt.nz)

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**Application form  
Section A –  
Capability self-  
assessment**

This capability self-assessment section will be used to assist in the process of evaluating applicants.

Please provide one to two examples for each capability detailing projects, tasks or occasions where you have demonstrated each of the areas described in Section A of the application form.

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**Application form  
Section B – Referee  
details**

This section asks you to provide the details of referees who can help us create a 360-degree picture of your personal attributes, behaviours, and skills in relation to those detailed in the position description. This will also include questions relating to integrity and conduct. These referees will be your current and previous managers, peers, junior staff members, direct reports, or others.

Please ensure you provide each referee's name, title, relationship to you, and their preferred contact phone numbers. If they are based outside of New Zealand, please also provide an email address for that referee.

We will contact you before approaching named referees.

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**Application form  
Section C –  
Authorisation**

In completing the authorisation section of the form, you are allowing the Public Service Commissioner (the Commissioner), or their designated representative or agent, to undertake the following checks:

- We may approach, in confidence, not only the referees you have named, but other people who have personal knowledge of you to gather information related to your suitability for this appointment.
  - Qualifications and credit checks are completed by an external agency on behalf of the Public Service Commission, only for the preferred candidate.
  - Security checks by the New Zealand Security Intelligence Service are required. These include vetting through the New Zealand Police and the Serious Fraud Office. The full check is completed only for the preferred candidate.
  - Serious misconduct checks are part of the Workforce Assurance Model Standards. It is a consent-based organisation to organisation check for a serious misconduct investigation, either concluded and upheld or currently under investigation, within the last three years.
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**Application form  
Section D – Criminal  
convictions  
declaration**

The information in this section is required to check whether you have any past criminal convictions or pending charges that might impact on your ability to be effective in the position.

If you are the preferred candidate for the position, we will confirm the details you have given through a criminal history check carried out by the Ministry of Justice. Only those directly involved in the recruitment, including our agents (and if necessary a legal advisor) will have access to

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this information prior to your appointment (if you are appointed, your declaration will be filed on your personal file).

If you fail to provide relevant information and the Commissioner subsequently discovers that you have a criminal conviction that could not be withheld under the Criminal Records (Clean Slate) Act 2004 or a charge was pending at the time of appointment, you may be dismissed.

You may access this information and request its correction.

See 'Key Legislation' below for information on the Criminal Records (Clean Slate) Act 2004.

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**Application form  
Section E – Conflict  
of interest**

A conflict of interest means a conflict between a public duty and private and/or personal interests. Personal interests may be financial or relate to family, friends or associates. Conflicts of interest may be actual, potential or perceived. A conflict of interest may happen at any stage during the recruitment process. You are responsible for advising the Public Service Commission immediately if you believe there is a possible conflict of interest. Please note that this will not invalidate your application but will be taken into consideration.

The Public Service Commission produces [model standards](#) on the Public Service Commissioner's minimum expectations for staff and organisations in the Public Service to support the effective reporting and management of conflicts of interests. These standards should be read alongside other relevant rules and standards including the Office of the Auditor-General's [Managing conflicts of interest: A guide for the public sector](#).

**Key legislation**

**Public Service Act  
2020**

Appointments to chief executive positions in the Public Service are made under Schedule 7 clause 3 of the Public Service Act 2020. This legislation sets out procedures to be followed in making these appointments and specifies the respective responsibilities of Ministers and the Commissioner.

**Privacy Act 2020**

The recruitment process is subject to the provisions of the Privacy Act 2020. Personal information collected during this appointment process will be used solely for assessing your suitability for employment in this position. It will be held confidentially by the Commissioner, the recruitment and assessment consultants, the interview panel and to Public Service Commission staff who will assist the Commissioner with this appointment process. Evaluative information will be held in confidence and you do not have right of access to it.

Your authority is needed to gather some of this information and an authorisation section is attached for this purpose.

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**Criminal Records  
(Clean Slate) Act  
2004**

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*[Extract from Ministry of Justice pamphlet 'Criminal Records (Clean Slate) Act 2004']*

You must meet all conditions in section 7 of the Act (a summary is set out below) before your convictions can be withheld. The Act should be consulted for full information (see [www.legislation.govt.nz](http://www.legislation.govt.nz) – exceptions to the Clean Slate scheme are found in section 19 of the Act).

You must:

- Have no convictions within the last seven years
- Never have been sentenced to a custodial sentence e.g. imprisonment, corrective training, borstal
- Never have been ordered by a Court following a criminal case to be detained in a hospital due to your mental condition instead of being sentenced
- Not have been convicted of a “specified offence” e.g. sexually offending against children and young people or the mentally impaired
- Have paid in full any fine, reparation, or costs ordered by the Court in a criminal case
- Never have been indefinitely disqualified from driving under section 65 of the Land Transport Act 1998 or equivalent provision

If you meet these requirements you should answer “No”.

## The appointment process

<b>Applications</b>	<p>The application deadline for this position is Tuesday, 26 August 2025 at 11.59pm.</p>
<b>Assessments</b>	<p>The panel may invite shortlisted candidates to undertake an assessment and this will be tailored to the position. This step can provide the Commissioner and the interview panel with further information on your suitability for the position of Secretary for Children and Chief Executive, Oranga Tamariki – Ministry for Children.</p> <p>You will be given detailed feedback on your performance and if you are the successful candidate the results of the assessment will be used to develop a first year, professional development plan.</p>
<b>Interviews</b>	<p>Interviews for shortlisted candidates will take place in Wellington, or online.</p> <p>During the interviews candidates will be asked a series of questions relating to their integrity, conduct and behaviour and whether there are any matters – past or present, professional or personal related, real or perceived – that could bring Oranga Tamariki – Ministry for Children into disrepute or undermine the appointment.</p> <p>Shortlisted candidates will be given more details on the interview panel and process at the time of arranging interviews.</p>
<b>Panel Interviews</b>	<p>The Deputy Public Service Commissioner will chair the interview panel, which is established under Schedule 7 clause 3(4) of the Public Service Act 2020. Panellists may be chosen for a number of reasons, such as to provide expertise in a particular field. Panellists attend in their own right. The panel has an advisory role in assisting the Commissioner to determine the extent to which candidates meet the criteria set for the position and have the qualities to perform to the standards required in section 52 and section 73 of the Public Service Act 2020.</p> <p>Responsibility for making the decision on whom to recommend for appointment rests solely with the chair of the interview panel. The chair of the interview panel forwards their recommendation for appointment to the Minister for the Public Service, for referral to the Governor-General in Council.</p>