



27 August 2019



Dear [REDACTED]

Official Information Request
Our Ref: SSCOIA 2019-0213

I refer to your Official Information request received on 30 July 2019 for:

"the following information about the recent process to fill the position of Secretary to the Treasury:

- *How many applications were received?*
- *What proportion of applicants were (as best you can tell) female?*
- *What proportion of applicants were New Zealand citizens?*
- *What proportion of applicants had at least an honours/masters degree in economics?*
- *What proportion of applicants had a PhD in economics?*
- *What proportion of applicants could reasonably be described as long-term New Zealand public servants?*
- *What proportion of applicants were living/working abroad at the time of application?*
- *How many of the applicants were interviewed by SSC?*
- *What proportion of those interviewed were female?*
- *What proportion were living/working in New Zealand at the time of application/interview."*

Information being released

In response to your request, 24 applications were received for the role of Secretary to the Treasury. Information provided in these applications indicates that at the time of their application for the role of Secretary to the Treasury:

- eight applicants were women
- seven applicants had NZ citizenship and 11 did not have NZ citizenship
- eight applicants were resident in NZ and 10 applicants were not resident in NZ
 - NZ residency and NZ citizenship information for six applicants is not held by the State Services Commission (SSC)
- seven applicants had stated experience working in the New Zealand public service
 - The SSC does not hold information in relation to the proportion of applicants who could reasonably be described as long-term New Zealand public servants

- eight applicants held a Masters or higher, qualification in an economics based discipline

We are withholding the number of applicants who held a PhD in economics under section 9(2)(a) of the Official Information Act, to protect the privacy of individuals. The SSC information release confidentiality guidelines ensure we allow as much high value information as possible to be released, while ensuring that it is not in a form that could reasonably expect to identify an individual, or at a level of aggregation where the information is still informative. These guidelines apply to any statistical information that contains private or confidential information and therefore prevent us releasing the exact number of applicants who held a PhD in economics.

In making our decision, we have considered the public interest considerations in section 9(1) of the OIA.

The applications for the role of Secretary to the Treasury were considered by the SSC in relation to the role's key leadership capabilities (which are outlined in the position description for the Secretary to the Treasury).

SSC engaged an external executive search and assessment consultancy group for this appointment. SSC decided who would be longlisted and shortlisted. The external consultancy group interviewed longlisted candidates and prepared advice for SSC's consideration for shortlisting.

Five applicants, two of which were female, were shortlisted to proceed through to an interview by an interview panel chaired by the State Services Commissioner. Before the interview, the shortlisted candidates underwent a suite of assessments with the external consultancy group.

If you wish to discuss this decision with us, please feel free to contact Ministerial.Services@ssc.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 State Services Commission's website.

Yours sincerely



Nicky Dirks
Managing Principal – Ministerial Services
State Services Commission