



15 May 2013

David Farrar
Email: david@farrar.com

Dear David

Official Information Act request: Ministers of the Crown sitting on interview panels

Thank you for your email of 24 April 2013 requesting the following information under the Official Information Act:

"Since 1999, have any Ministers of the Crown sat on interview panels for state sector Chief Executive appointments? If yes, can you please supply details of when, which Minister and for which roles."

The State Services Commissioner is responsible for the recruitment and appointment of Public Service chief executives, and manages the appointment process on behalf of Ministers for some non-Public Service departments.

Public Service chief executive appointments

Section 35 of the State Sector Act 1988 requires the State Services Commissioner to consult with the appropriate Minister or Ministers, but Ministers of the Crown do not sit on the panels for Public Service chief executives, and we are confident that this has been the case since 1999.

Non-Public Service department chief executive appointments

With regard to appointments managed by the State Services Commissioner on behalf of Ministers, the appropriate Ministers are consulted on panel members but do not generally sit on the interview panels. The exceptions to this, since 1999, were:

Clerk of the House of Representatives	November 2007	Hon Dr Michael Cullen, Leader of the House of Representatives
Solicitor-General	June 2000	Hon Margaret Wilson Attorney General

In addition, Ministers were involved in appointment of the State Services Commissioners in 2004 and 2008, as follows:

State Services Commissioner	February 2004	Hon Trevor Mallard Minister of State Services
State Services Commissioner	April 2008	Hon David Parker Minister of State Services

As the State Services Commissioner has no involvement in the recruitment processes of other State sector organisations, we have no knowledge of the composition of interview panels for any other State sector chief executive appointments.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Peter Brown', with a stylized, cursive script.

Peter Brown
Deputy Commissioner