

25 October 2023

Michael Reddell  
mhreddell@gmail.com

Dear Mr Reddell

Thank you for your official information request of 7 September 2023 for:

- ...copies of all material relating to the selection of people to recommend for the first wave of appointments to MPC that involved communication between the Bank or the Board or Board members and the recruitment firm used in that process. I am not interested in purely administrative matters (fees, meeting times/places etc) but am particularly interested in how selection criteria were developed, discussed with the firm, and applied, as well as any exchanges or feedback (names of outsiders withheld) on the suitability or otherwise of any potential applicants or people expressing interest in the roles.
- Here I would draw your attention to the fact that in 2019 I OIAed the Bank as follows

**12 July 2019**

**Mr Michael Reddell**

Privacy, OIA s9(2)(a)

**Dear Mr Reddell**

***You made a request under section 12 of the Official Information Act (the OIA) seeking: all material relating to the Board's selection and recommendation of potential MPC members [including] without limitation, the relevant sections of Board minutes, any records (or recall) of discussions with the Governor, any relevant Board papers, any advice (written or oral) given to or received from the Minister of Finance and his office.***

Your full response is here [response-to-official-information-request-mpc-recruitment.pdf](https://www.rbz.govt.nz/official-information-response-to-official-information-request-mpc-recruitment.pdf) ([rbz.govt.nz](https://www.rbz.govt.nz)). On rereading it, I see that no communications with the recruitment firm were either released or identified with statutory reasons for withholding. My current request would seem, on any reasonable reading, to cover ground that should have been dealt with in 2019.

- I have copied Eric Crampton on this request, which is prompted by your releases to us both in the last few days on the MPC appointment criteria issue.

As you are aware, on 3 October 2023 the date for a decision on your request was extended to 27 October 2023, to enable necessary consultations to take place, including with the Chair of the Reserve Bank Board.

## Information for Release

We have identified the information listed in the table below as being in scope of your request:

Item	Date	Document / information description	Action
1.	16 August 2018	Email: RE MPC	Release in full
2.	17 August 2018, 4:23pm	Email trail: FW: RBNZ - Three External Monetary Policy Committee appointments Attachment: Ichor's proposal	Release in full
3.	17 August 2018, 5:21pm	Email chain: RE: Updated docs RBNZ MPC recruitment	Release in full
4.	22 August 2018, 1:28pm	Email: Draft Advertisement Attachments: Draft Advertisement and Media Schedule	Release in full
5.	22 August 2018, 1:41pm	Email: Draft Advertisement Attachment: Updated Draft Advertisement	Release in full
6.	22 August 2018, 6:32pm	FW: Draft advert for MPC appointments Two Attachments: Draft Advert NQ edit	Release in full
7.	23 August 2018, 3:48pm	Email: Position Description and Code of Conduct Attachments: Job description MPC External Member 22 August 2018 MPC Code of Conduct 22 August 2018	Release in full
8.	23 August 2018, 7:26pm	Email: RE: Draft advert for MPC appointments	Release in full
9.	23 August 2018, 7:26pm	Email: RE: Draft advert for MPC appointments Attachment: Advert (clean) – RBNZ, MPC	Release in full
10.	30 August 2018, 2:47pm	Email: Final draft of Code of Conduct for MPC members Attachments: Monetary Policy Committee Code of Conduct DRAFT Reserve Bank of New Zealand Position description	Release in full
11.	7 September 2018, 5:51pm	Email: MPC Update	Release in full
12.	11 September 2018, 2:45pm	Email: Confidential: Board Update – MPC process Attachment: RBNZ External MPC Appointments Progress Report	Release in full

Item	Date	Document / information description	Action
13.	11 September 2018, 3:29pm	Email chain: RE: Confidential: Board update – MPC process Attachment: Board Update – External Monetary Policy Committee appointment process	Release in full
14.	September 2018	Report: Applications Received & Options for Approach	Release in part s 9(2)(a)
15.	25 September 2018, 5:44pm	Email: External MPC positions - Additional options for approach (legal focus) Attachment: Additional Options for Approach – Legal Focus	Release in part s 9(2)(a)
16.	26 September 2018, 8:54am	Email chain: RE: External MPC positions – Additional options for approach (legal focus)	Release in part s 9(2)(a)
17.	18 October 2018, 4:45pm	RE: Soft copies Attachment: RBNZ – External MPC Shortlist	Release in part s 9(2)(a), s 9(2)(ba)(i)
18.	19 October 2018, 2:55pm	Email: RE: Interview questions support	Release in full
19.	19 October 2018, 5:28pm	Email: RE: Candidates	Release in part s 9(2)(a)
20.	23 October 2018, 2:36pm	Email: RE: Draft Panel Questions - External MPC Interviews Attachment: RBNZ External MPC Appointments Panel Interview Questions	Release in full
21.	21 November 2018, 4:33:	Email: Peter Harris Attachment: Additional Options for Approach – Ministerial Recommendation	Release in part s 9(2)(ba)(i)
22.	4 December 2018, 1:50pm	Email chain: RE: RBNZ Board Interview panel Attachment: Confidential Report Peter Harris	Release in part s 9(2)(ba)(i)
23.	4 December 2018, 3:39pm	Email: RE: RBNZ Board Interview panel	Release in full
24.	19 January 2019 1:54pm	Email: RE: MPC MoF's selection	Release in full
25.	1 March 2019, 12:34pm	Email chain: RE: MPC appointments	Release in part s 9(2)(a)
26.	1 March 2019, 12:54pm	Email: Reference reports - Potential External MPC members	Release in part. Attachments withheld in full, s 9(2)(a), s 9(2)(ba)(i)

Some information will be withheld for the following reasons:

- Details of unsuccessful candidates and confidential reference checks under section 9(2)(a) – to protect the privacy of individuals

- Information supplied by Ichor under section 9(2)(ba)(i) – the information was provided to the Reserve Bank under an obligation of confidence. Release would likely prejudice the supply of similar information/information from the same source, and it is in the public's interest that such information should continue to be supplied.

Some information has been redacted because it is not covered by the scope of your request. This is because the documents include matters outside your specific request.

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

## Charging

The OIA allows charges to be imposed for the preparation of information in response to requests. The Reserve Bank is resourced to meet disclosure obligations for a reasonable level of requests and generally will not impose charges for small, simple, or infrequent requests. The cost of providing free responses to Official Information requests is generally borne by taxpayers; however, the Reserve Bank believes that requesters should bear some of the costs when requests are made for large amounts of information, where a response is particularly complex, or where individuals or organisations make frequent requests.

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In this instance, we have determined that a charge is appropriate due to the amount of time required to process your request and the frequency of requests from you over the last three months.

## Charges payable

Searching for information and assessing information in scope of your request required approximately 10 hours. The Government's Charging Guidelines specify a standard charge of \$38 per half hour of staff time in excess of one hour, leaving 9 hours of chargeable time. At the standard rate of \$38 this allows a charge of \$786.60 (including GST) to be imposed.

Please let us know if you wish to continue with this request and we will provide you with an invoice for payment, for the amount of \$786.60 (including GST) and copies of the information referred to above.

The Reserve Bank works within the charging guidelines published by the Ministry of Justice and by the Office of the Ombudsman. You can read the Ombudsman's charging guidelines at [www.ombudsman.parliament.nz/system/paperclip/document\\_files/document\\_files/2227/original/charging\\_june\\_2017.pdf?1498813017](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz/system/paperclip/document_files/document_files/2227/original/charging_june_2017.pdf?1498813017).

The Reserve Bank's charging policy is on our website at [www.rbnz.govt.nz/research-and-publications/official-information-requests#Charges](http://www.rbnz.govt.nz/research-and-publications/official-information-requests#Charges)

You have the right to seek an investigation and review of this decision by the Ombudsman. Information about how to make a complaint is available at [www.ombudsman.parliament.nz](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz) or freephone 0800 802 602.

We intend to publish this response (with personal details removed) on the Reserve Bank's website at: [www.rbnz.govt.nz/research-and-publications/official-information-requests](http://www.rbnz.govt.nz/research-and-publications/official-information-requests). We do this in order to improve transparency and provide an additional resource for anyone seeking information.

Yours sincerely

Government and Industry Relations Team

**Reserve Bank of New Zealand – Te Pūtea Matua**