



Office of Hon Simon Power

MP for Rangitikei

Minister of Justice

Minister for State Owned Enterprises

Minister of Commerce

Minister Responsible for the Law Commission

Associate Minister of Finance

Deputy Leader of the House

11 MAR 2010

Dear

OIA REQUEST ON HUMAN RIGHTS REVIEW TRIBUNAL

Thank you for your email of 12 February 2009 in which you ask for further information on the process followed for the appointment last December of a number of members of the Human Rights Review Tribunal.

I can confirm that five of the nine candidates who were appointed on 14 December 2009 were nominated by Ministers at a meeting of the Cabinet Appointment and Honours Committee on 18 August 2009. They were suggested as alternatives to other candidates who were being proposed for re-appointment. For a subsequent meeting of the Appointments and Honours Committee held on 24 November 2009, Ministers were provided with a Curriculum Vitae form for each of the candidates for appointment to the Human Rights Review Tribunal in accordance with standard procedure.

The SSC guidelines to which you refer are designed to ensure Ministers receive consistent information on candidates being recommended for appointment, about whom they often have no prior information. The guidelines are just that. It is wholly up to Ministers to determine to what extent the guidelines need to be applied in any appointment process or part thereof.

In the case in point, the four individuals who were added to the list of proposed appointees were well known to Ministers. The other individual was a former member of the Tribunal who was supported for re-appointment by a Minister. I can confirm that those candidates were not interviewed as the Committee was satisfied as to their suitability for appointment.

Yours sincerely

Hon Simon Power
Minister of Justice