



New Zealand House of Representatives
Te Whare Māngai o Aotearoa

Officers of Parliament Committee
Komiti o Ngā Āpiha o te Pāremata

54th Parliament
December 2024

Inquiry into the recruitment of the next Chief Ombudsman

Presented to the House of Representatives
by Rt Hon Gerry Brownlee, Chairperson

Contents

Recommendation..... 3

Introduction..... 3

 Committee procedure..... 3

 Consultation 3

Appendix..... 4

Inquiry into the recruitment of the next Chief Ombudsman

Recommendation

The Officers of Parliament Committee recommends that the House recommend to the Governor-General that:

- pursuant to sections 3(1) and 5(1) of the Ombudsmen Act 1975, John Richard Allen be appointed as an Ombudsman for a term of 5 years
- pursuant to section 3(4) of the Ombudsmen Act 1975, and upon taking up the office of Ombudsman, John Richard Allen be appointed as Chief Ombudsman with effect from the date that the incumbent Chief Ombudsman vacates the position.

Introduction

Peter Boshier was appointed Chief Ombudsman on 15 December 2015, following a distinguished career as a Judge, and in May 2020 he was reappointed for a second five-year term. Mr Boshier resigned from that role on 16 March 2024, his 72nd birthday, as required by law, but was asked to stay on until a replacement was found.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank Mr Boshier for his many years of public service, and to wish him all the best for his retirement.

Committee procedure

The procedures for the appointment of an Officer of Parliament provided the guide for managing this appointment process. We engaged an external recruitment consultant to assist us in conducting the appointment process.

Consultation

The chairperson, through committee members, sought and obtained the support of political parties represented in the House for Mr Allen's appointment. In light of this support, we resolved to recommend John Richard Allen for appointment as an Ombudsman and to undertake the role of Chief Ombudsman.

Appendix

Committee procedure

We met between 19 March and 10 December 2024 to consider the inquiry.

Committee members

Rt Hon Gerry Brownlee (Chairperson)

Jamie Arbuckle

Mariameno Kapa-Kingi

Barbara Kuriger

Ricardo Menéndez March

Greg O'Connor

Suze Redmayne

Todd Stephenson

Arena Williams

Kahurangi Carter replaced Ricardo Menéndez March for this inquiry.