

Votes Justice and Courts

2017 Briefing for the Incoming Minister



New Zealand Government

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1. The role of the Minister of Justice and Minister for Courts

Your responsibilities in the Justice and Courts portfolios are fundamental, broad and wide-ranging.

The Minister of Justice and Minister for Courts are key stewards of the justice system. That means you are responsible for the system whose primary functions are to:

- a) Protect and uphold the rule of law;
- b) Enable New Zealanders to transact their business with confidence; and
- c) Facilitate peaceful and orderly ways to avoid, contain and resolve disputes.

Through these functions, the system promotes a safe and just New Zealand. New Zealanders want to go about their daily lives confident that they will be safe from crime, that others will obey the law and meet their obligations, and that disputes can be resolved peacefully and proportionately. When the justice system is working well, New Zealanders have the confidence to make decisions that improve their lives and those of their children. Collectively, these individual decisions can improve New Zealanders' welfare and prosperity.

As the **Minister of Justice**, you are responsible for the policy and legislation that underpins the justice system; for example, sentencing, parole and bail; family law; civil law; youth justice; legal aid and access to justice; reducing crime and victimisation. You are also responsible for providing, through the Ministry of Justice, the administration of legal aid and the Public Defence Service, and for funding important justice services and programmes, including those that assist victims of crime.

You will also have an interest in the impact of operators across the criminal justice system. In particular, a working relationship with the Ministers of Police and Corrections and the Attorney-General helps you to see the impacts of these agencies on the system as a whole. In addition, because the demand for justice services and cause of that demand are often driven from poor outcomes in other systems (eg, education/housing/health), you will have an interest in those portfolios to varying degrees.

Importantly, the Justice portfolio includes responsibility for some of New Zealand's core constitutional statutes (e.g. New Zealand Bill of Rights Act 1990, Official Information Act 1982, Electoral Act 1993, Constitution Act 1986, Habeas Corpus Act 2001 and Magna Carta), agencies (e.g. Electoral Commission) and relationships. The latter extends to the evolving Crown-Māori relationship, as New Zealand increasingly moves to a post-settlement environment.

Finally, you exercise a number of statutory and executive powers conferred on the Minister of Justice. These include:

- a) Responsibility for the Government's ownership interest in the Ministry of Justice, as Responsible Minister for the overall Ministry, and Vote Justice Crown entities, comprising the Human Rights Commission, Electoral Commission, Office of the Privacy Commissioner, Law Commission, Real Estate Agents Authority, Public Trust and Independent Police Conduct Authority (see Appendix D for further information on Crown entities);
- b) Giving advice to the Governor-General on applications for the exercise of the Royal prerogative of mercy;
- c) Making decisions on compensation claims for wrongful conviction and imprisonment;
- d) Appointments to approximately 120 – 140 statutory positions and 200 – 300 Justices of the Peace annually (see Appendix D);
- e) Making decisions about applications for extradition;
- f) Making decisions on exemptions from certain regulatory requirements; for instance, exempting entities from complying with some or all of the provisions in the Anti-Money Laundering and Countering Financing of Terrorism Act 2017 and the Real Estate Agents Act 2008; and
- g) Reporting to the United Nations under core international human rights treaties.

As the **Minister for Courts**, you are responsible for providing, through the Ministry of Justice, the administrative and other services necessary to:

- a) Support the delivery of New Zealand's courts and tribunals;
- b) Support independent judicial decision-making;
- c) Oversee the collection of infringements, court fines and reparations;
- d) Serve court documents; and
- e) Enforce civil judgments and orders.

Both the Minister for Courts and the Minister of Justice are also responsible for the policy and legislation that underpins the operation of the courts.

An overview of the court structure is provided in Appendix A and a map of the court locations is in Appendix B.

The full range of legislation within the Courts and Justice portfolios are listed in Appendix C.

2. Introducing the Ministry of Justice

About the Ministry

The Ministry of Justice supports the Minister of Justice, Minister for Courts, the Attorney-General and the Minister for Treaty of Waitangi Negotiations to carry out their responsibilities, and delivers a range of courts and justice services to New Zealanders.

The Ministry's mission and vision is to deliver people-centred justice services that contribute to a safe and just New Zealand. We have ambitious goals that focus our collective effort on achieving the things that matter to New Zealanders:

- Modernise courts and tribunals to get people through quicker
- Deliver improved justice outcomes for Māori
- Reduce crime, victimisation and harm
- Provide great service to the public every day.

Figure 1: Our Strategy

OUR STRATEGY

WHAT_
Deliver people-centred justice services

WHY_
FOR A SAFE & JUST NEW ZEALAND

GOALS_
Modernise courts and tribunals to get people through quicker
Deliver improved justice outcomes for Māori
Reduce crime, victimisation and harm
Provide great service to the public every day

HOW_
CUSTOMER
Walking a mile in the shoes of the public
CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT
Always strive to provide a better service
COLLABORATION
Helping each other to succeed
RESULTS MATTER
We are all accountable

PRIORITIES_
Develop our people
Turn data into insight
Build robust, functional ICT
Ensure good communications
Make the ministry a great place to work

VALUES_ RESPECT. INTEGRITY. SERVICE. EXCELLENCE.

We have over 3,500 people in 107 sites around New Zealand. We work collaboratively within the Ministry and across the public sector to deliver critical services to our customers and improve the lives of New Zealanders. We aim to make communities safer, strengthen the public's trust in the justice system and maintain the integrity of our constitutional arrangements.

The broad and wide-ranging nature of our work is illustrated in Figure 2.

Figure 2: Our services



Justice system

We support the judiciary, courts and tribunals by providing the registry and administrative services necessary to support the courts and tribunals system and to support the judiciary. We administer the legal aid system; operate the Public Defence Service, New Zealand's largest criminal law practice with over 170 criminal defence lawyers in 10 offices across the country; collect unpaid infringements lodged in court, court fines and reparations; carry out criminal conviction history checks; and contract with providers to deliver a variety of programmes and services that support directions given by the judiciary. We provide funding for community law centres which provide free legal services and law-related education to New Zealanders.

Criminal justice system

Government departments working in the criminal justice system are the Ministry of Justice, the Department of Corrections, New Zealand Police, Crown Law Office, Serious Fraud Office and the Ministry for Vulnerable Children, Oranga Tamariki (for youth justice). We currently organise ourselves through a Justice Sector Leadership Board, made up of the Secretary for Justice, the Chief Executive of the Department of Corrections, the Commissioner of Police, the Solicitor-General and the Director of the Serious Fraud Office. It is chaired by the Secretary for Justice. The board is a vehicle to give effect to greater collaboration and whole-of-sector approaches.

Supporting the operation of our government and democratic systems

We support the whole of government to maintain public trust and confidence in the integrity of our core institutions to support a safe, fair and prosperous New Zealand. Our focus is on how government operates to carry out its functions lawfully and consistently with New Zealanders' constitutional values. We administer foundational, cross-cutting legislation such as the Privacy Act 1993, Human Rights Act 1993, New Zealand Bill of Rights Act 1990 and Official Information Act 1982. We provide advice to other agencies on how to implement their policies in accordance with the law. We also advise the government where changes are needed to keep these laws fit for purpose in a changing environment (eg, balancing privacy interests with information sharing to support better outcomes for New Zealanders).

We also act as a steward and facilitator for key constitutional relationships, such as the Crown-Māori relationship, the fundamental rights of individuals, and the democratic principles upon which modern New Zealand rests. In doing so, we are focussed on the core constitutional values that define the relationship between citizens and the state.

An increasingly important focus of the Ministry's activity in this system is the work of the Ministry's Post Settlement Commitments Unit (PSCU). The PSCU was established in 2013 to safeguard the durability of Treaty settlements.

The importance of stewardship

A key component of the Ministry's day-to-day work is stewardship. Under the State Sector Act 1988, the Chief Executive of the Ministry is responsible to you for stewardship of:

- the Ministry, including its sustainability in the medium and long term, and its capacity to continue to provide free and frank advice to current and successive governments;
- the assets and liabilities managed by the Ministry on behalf of the Crown; and
- the legislation administered by the Ministry.

In order to be an effective steward, the Ministry must maintain a long-term view that focuses on how the decisions made today will impact the next five years, the next ten years, or even the next generation. This means the Ministry acts as a steward to ensure:

- The justice system is modern and fit-for-purpose to deliver the services New Zealanders need now and in the future;
- The criminal justice pipeline is configured to deliver the right interventions at the right time, maximising public safety and reducing harm by ensuring that decision-makers have a range of options and evidence of their effectiveness;
- The Ministry's priorities are aligned to wider government priorities and legislation is reviewed regularly and updated if necessary to maintain public trust and confidence;
- Key constitutional principles are maintained, such as the separation of powers, the rule of law and judicial independence, so that New Zealanders can trust their government and New Zealand maintains a good international standing that supports our trade and foreign relations.

The Ministry works across all government branches

The Ministry is unique in New Zealand in that we are the only agency working across all three arms of government – as well as working for the legislature and executive, we provide support to the judiciary. A critical element of this relationship is the constitutional requirement of judicial independence.

A key role for the Ministry is supporting the Judiciary and the courts. The Ministry provides registry and administrative services necessary to support judicial administration of the court system and judicial decision-making. Administrative support includes transcription services, finance, ICT, human resources and funding and support for the Institute of Judicial Studies, which provides continuing legal education and development. We must provide these administrative services in the most efficient way possible.

In delivering services, the Ministry recognises the importance of the constitutional requirements of independence of the judicial function and works with the Judiciary to ensure this is preserved and maintained. The courts must be, and must be seen to be, separate from and independent of the executive – this serves to uphold the rule of law.

Employees, such as court registrars who exercise quasi-judicial functions, do so as officers of the Court. The Ministry does not direct employees when they are exercising these functions.

In addition to our everyday contact with the Judiciary on operational matters, there are two official conduits for communications – the Judicial Office for Senior Courts and the Courts Consultative Committee. The Ministry seeks judicial input into operational changes that impact the courts, such as improvements to court processes and service design.

Appropriations

The Ministry administers over \$1 billion across Votes Justice, Courts, and Treaty Negotiations.

Vote Justice

2017/18 Annual and Permanent Appropriations	Budget \$000
Departmental Output Expenses	96,607
Departmental Capital Expenditure	78,214
Non-Departmental Output Expenses	291,167
Non-Departmental Other Expenses	16,177
Multi-Category Expenses and Capital Expenditure	37,805
Total Annual and Permanent Appropriations	519,970

Vote Courts

2017/18 Annual and Permanent Appropriations	Budget \$000
Non-Departmental Other Expenses	260,471
Multi-Category Expenses and Capital Expenditure	455,914
Total Annual and Permanent Appropriations	716,385

Vote Treaty Negotiations

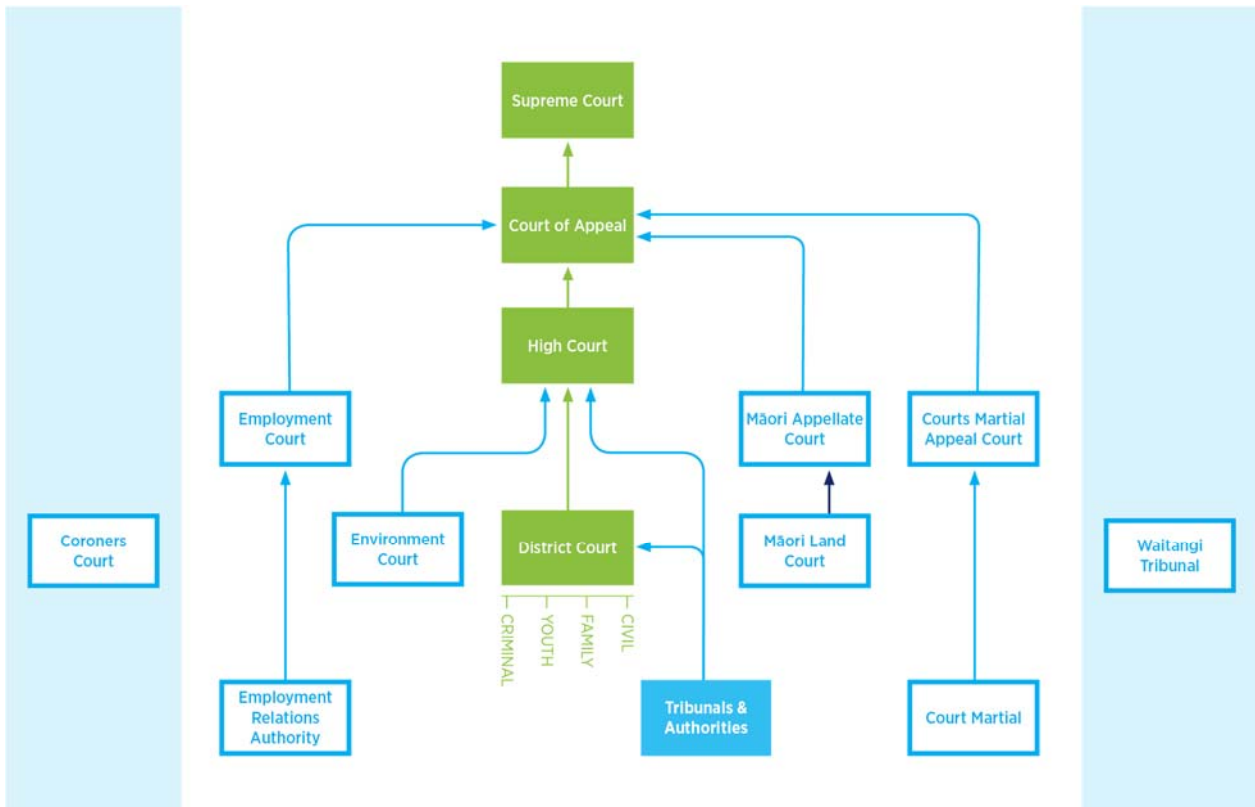
2017/18 Annual and Permanent Appropriations	Budget \$000
Non-Departmental Other Expenses	16,552
Multi-Category Expenses and Capital Expenditure	33,476
Total Annual and Permanent Appropriations	50,028

Multi-Year Appropriations		\$000
Historical Treaty of Waitangi Settlements 2016 – 2020 (M74)	Original Appropriation	1,400,000

Commences: 30 June 2016 Expires: 30 June 2020	Estimated Actual for 2016/17	379,146
Historical Treaty of Waitangi Settlements 2017 – 2021 (M74)	Original Appropriation	1,400,000
Commences: 30 June 2017 Expires: 30 June 2021	Estimated Actual for 2016/17	-

Total 2017/18 Annual and Permanent Appropriations and Multi-Year Appropriation Forecasts	Budget \$000
Total Annual and Permanent Appropriations	50,028
Total MYA Non-Departmental Other Expenses Forecasts	350,000
Total Annual and Permanent Appropriations and Multi-Year Appropriation Forecasts	400,028

Appendix A: Court system structure



District Court Criminal Cases – Some criminal cases may appeal directly to the Court of Appeal, instead of the High Court

TRIBUNALS & AUTHORITIES

NO LINE OF APPEAL

- Abortion Supervisory Committee
- Criminal Justice Assistance Reimbursement Scheme
- Legal Complaints Review Officer
- Review Authority (Legal Aid Providers)
- Student Allowance Appeal Authority
- Waitangi Tribunal

APPEALS TO DISTRICT COURT

- Disputes Tribunal (on very limited grounds)
- Immigration Advisers Complaints and Disciplinary Tribunal
- Motor Vehicle Disputes Tribunal
- Private Security Personnel Licensing Authority
- Secondhand Dealers and Pawnbrokers Licensing Authority
- Tenancy Tribunal
- Weathertight Homes Tribunal (for less than \$350,000)

APPEALS TO EMPLOYMENT COURT

- Employment Relations Authority

APPEALS TO HIGH COURT

- Accident Compensation Appeal Authority*
- Alcohol Regulatory and Licensing Authority
- Copyright Tribunal*
- Customs Appeal Authority*
- Human Rights Review Tribunal
- Immigration and Protection Tribunal*
- Land Valuation Tribunal
- Lawyers and Conveyancers Disciplinary Tribunal
- Legal Aid Tribunal*
- Real Estate Agents Disciplinary Tribunal
- Social Security Appeal Authority*
- Taiapure-Local Fisheries Tribunal*
- Taxation Review Authority
- Trans-Tasman Occupations Tribunal*
- Victims' Special Claims Tribunal*
- Weathertight Homes Tribunal (for more than \$350,000)

* only on points of law

The courts, tribunals and authorities listed here are administered by the Ministry of Justice except:

- Employment Relations Authority, which is run by the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment
- Court Martial, which is run by the New Zealand Defence Force.

Appendix B: Court locations



MDO0004_SPT 2007

Appendix C: Legislation administered by the Ministry

A

Abolition of the Death Penalty Act 1989
Administration Act 1969
Admiralty Act 1973
Adoption (Intercountry) Act 1997
Adoption Act 1955
Adult Adoption Information Act 1985
Age of Majority Act 1970
Animals Law Reform Act 1989
Anti-money Laundering and Countering Financing of Terrorism Act 2009
Arbitration (International Investment Disputes) Act 1979
Arbitration Act 1996
Aviation Crimes Act 1972

B

Bail Act 2000
Broadcasting Act 1989¹

C

Care of Children Act 2004
Charitable Trusts Act 1957
Citizens Initiated Referenda Act 1993
Civil Union Act 2004
Criminal Records (Clean Slate) Act 2004
Constitution Act 1986
Contraception, Sterilisation, and Abortion Act 1977
Contract and Commercial Law Act 2017²
Contributory Negligence Act 1947
Coroners Act 2006
Costs in Criminal Cases Act 1967

¹ Administered jointly with the Ministry for Culture and Heritage and Te Puni Kōiri.

² Administered jointly with the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment.

Courts (Remote Participation) Act 2010
Courts Security Act 1999
Crimes (Internally Protected Persons, United Nations and Associated Personnel, and Hostages) Act 1980
Crimes Act 1961
Crimes of Torture Act 1989
Criminal Disclosure Act 2008
Criminal Investigations (Bodily Samples) Act 1995
Criminal Procedure (Mentally Impaired Persons) Act 2003
Criminal Procedure Act 2011
Criminal Proceeds (Recovery) Act 2009
Crown Organisations (Criminal Liability) Act 2002
Crown Proceedings Act 1950

D

Deaths by Accidents Compensation Act 1952
Declaratory Judgments Act 1908
Deeds Registration Act 1908
Defamation Act 1992
Department of Justice (Restructuring) Act 1995
Disputes Tribunals Act 1988
District Court Act 2016
Domestic Actions Act 1975
Domestic Violence Act 1995
Domicile Act 1976

E

Electoral Act 1993
Electronic Courts and Tribunals Act 2016
Evidence Act 2006
Extradition Act 1999

F

Family Court Act 1980
Family Dispute Resolution Act 2013
Family Proceedings Act 1980
Family Protection Act 1955
Fencing Act 1978
Films, Videos, and Publications Classification Act 1993
Financial Transactions Reporting Act 1996
Flags, Emblems and Names Protection Act 1981³

H

Habeas Corpus Act 2001
Harassment Act 1997
Harmful Digital Communications Act 2015
Hotel Association of New Zealand Act 1969
Human Assisted Reproductive Technology Act 2004
Human Rights Act 1993

I

Imperial Laws Application Act 1988
Imprisonment for Debt Limitation Act 1908
Independent Police Conduct Authority Act 1988
Inferior Courts Procedure Act 1909
Innkeepers Act 1962
Interest on Money Claims Act 2016
International Crimes and International Criminal Court Act 2000⁴
International War Crimes Tribunals Act 1995
Interpretation Act 1999

J

Joint Family Homes Act 1964
Judicial Conduct Commissioner and Judicial Conduct Panel Act 2004

Judicial Review Procedure Act 2016
Juries Act 1981
Justices of the Peace Act 1957

L

Land Transfer Act 1952⁵
Land Transfer (Hawke's Bay) Act 1931
Land Valuation Proceedings Act 1948
Law Commission Act 1985
Law Reform (Testamentary Promises) Act 1949
Law Reform Act 1936
Law Reform Act 1944
Lawyers and Conveyancers Act 2006
Legal Services Act 2011
Legislation Act 2012⁶
Limitation Act 1950
Limitation Act 2010

M

Marine and Coastal Area (Takutai Moana) Act 2011
Maritime Crimes Act 1999
Marriage Act 1955
Mining Tenures Registration Act 1962
Misuse of Drugs Act 1975⁷
Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters Act 1992

N

New Zealand Bill of Rights Act 1990
New Zealand Council of Law Reporting Act 1938
Newspapers and Printers Act Repeal Act 1995

O

Oaths and Declarations Act 1957
Occupiers' Liability Act 1962

³ Administered jointly with the Ministry for Culture and Heritage.

⁴ Administered jointly with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

⁵ Administered jointly with Land Information New Zealand. This Act is due to be repealed by the Land Transfer Act 2017.

⁶ Administered jointly with Parliamentary Counsel Office.

⁷ Administered jointly with the Ministry of Health.

Official Information Act 1982

Ombudsmen Act 1975

P

Parole Act 2002⁸

Perpetuities Act 1964

Political Disabilities Removal Act 1960

Prisoners' and Victims' Claims Act 2005

Privacy Act 1993

Private Security Personnel and Private Investigators Act 2010⁹

Prohibition of Gang Insignia in Government Premises Act 2013

Property (Relationships) Act 1976

Property Law Act 2007

Prostitution Reform Act 2003

Protection of Personal and Property Rights Act 1988

Public Trust Act 2001

R

Real Estate Agents Act 2008

Reciprocal Enforcement of Judgments Act 1934

Referenda (Postal Voting) Act 2000

Returning Offenders (Management and Information) Act 2015

Royal Succession Act 2013

S

Sale and Supply of Alcohol Act 2012

Search and Surveillance Act 2012

Secondhand Dealers and Pawnbrokers Act 2004

Secret Commissions Act 1910

Senior Courts Act 2016

Sentencing Act 2002¹⁰

Serious Fraud Office Act 1990

Simultaneous Deaths Act 1958

Status of Children Act 1969

Statutory Land Charges Registration Act 1928

Succession (Homicide) Act 2007

Summary Offences Act 1981

Summary Proceedings Act 1957

T

Terrorism Suppression Act 2002¹¹

Trans-Tasman Proceedings Act 2010

Treaty of Waitangi (State Enterprises) Act 1988

Trespass Act 1980

Trustee Act 1956

Trustee Companies Act 1967

U

Unit Titles Act 2010¹²

V

Victims' Orders Against Violent Offenders Act 2014

Victims' Rights Act 2002

W

Wills Act 1837 (UK)

Wills Act 2007

⁸ Administered jointly with the Department of Corrections.

⁹ Sections 100 and 101 are administered by the Department of Internal Affairs.

¹⁰ Administered jointly with the Department of Corrections.

¹¹ Administered jointly with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

¹² Administered jointly with the Ministry of Business, Innovation, and Employment, and Land Information New Zealand.

Appendix D: Statutory appointments and Crown entities

Statutory appointments

As the Minister of Justice, you are responsible for making or recommending appointments to approximately 450 statutory positions (excluding Justice of the Peace appointments).

The appointments fall into two major groups:

Crown Entities

This group comprises the Electoral Commission, the Human Rights Commission, the Law Commission, the Independent Police Conduct Authority, the Office of the Privacy Commissioner and the Real Estate Agents Authority.

Tribunals, Boards, Committees and Authorities

These include tribunals and other quasi-judicial bodies of similar functions (eg, Abortion Supervisory Committee, Weathertight Homes Tribunal, Immigration and Protection Tribunal, Disputes Tribunal, Tenancy Tribunal, and Land Valuation Tribunals).

The majority of these appointments are for terms of three to five years so 120 to 140 positions are reviewed annually.

Justices of the Peace

You are also responsible for recommending the appointment of Justices of the Peace (JPs).

Only Members of Parliament (MPs) may nominate individuals for appointment as JPs. Each electorate MP is responsible for ensuring that their electorate is adequately serviced by JPs. List MPs may submit nominations in their own name but need to have the prior endorsement of the appropriate electorate MP.

In recent years approximately 200 – 300 JP appointments are approved annually. To manage workflow, nominations that require decisions are generally batched into monthly schedules.

Appointment process

The statutes under which the bodies or positions are established specify who makes the appointment (most often the Governor-General on the recommendation of the Minister) and the appointment term. Other matters such as appointment criteria and required consultation are sometimes included in the governing legislation but it is rare for legislation to prescribe the process by which candidates are to be identified.

Responsibility for managing the recruitment and appointment processes are deemed to be delegated to the Ministry of Justice unless you direct otherwise.

The Ministry provides advice on each upcoming vacancy. Normally the advice will:

- Explain the basic legislative and Cabinet requirements associated with the appointment;
- Provide a position description;
- Offer preliminary advice on the skills and experience of the person required to fill the vacancy;
- Recommend a process that may be followed; and
- Set out any associated remuneration issues.

Potential candidates can be identified in various ways including advertising, seeking nominations from interest groups, Ministers or MPs, seeking suggestions from incumbent chairs and via self-nomination. The suitability of the available options is canvassed on a case-by-case basis but, in general, the practice in recent years has been publicly to advertise crown entity and other high profile appointments.

Under Cabinet guidelines, all but the most minor appointments are referred to Cabinet. Cabinet guidelines also advise that the Prime Minister should be consulted on major appointments before they are submitted to Cabinet.

Role of Associate Minister of Justice

You retain ultimate responsibility for all statutory appointments within the Justice portfolio but it has been the practice of successive Ministers of Justice to delegate some appointments to an Associate Minister of Justice. The delegated appointments usually include JPs.

Crown Entities

You are the Responsible Minister for five Independent Crown entities, one Autonomous crown entity and one crown agent.

The role of the Responsible Minister is to oversee and manage the Crown's interests in, and relationships with, entities within their portfolio, and to carry out statutory responsibilities identified in section 27 of the Crown Entities Act 2004.

Overall, the Minister's roles and responsibilities are to:

- Ensure effective and efficient boards are in place to govern the Crown entities (through the responsibility to appoint, reappoint and remove board members);
- Participate in setting the direction of Crown entities;
- Monitor and review Crown entities' performance and results; and
- Manage risks on behalf of the Crown.

The Ministry provides the Responsible Minister with advice about:

- Performance against agreed targets – assessment of performance;
- Financial planning – advice about robustness of planning;
- Risk management – assurance that risk management is in place;
- Financial results – early warning of threats to viability or effectiveness; and
- Entity capability – assurance that entities have capability to deliver.

The following is a high-level summary of key information related to entities in the Vote Justice portfolio. Individual Crown entities will provide their own briefings to the Responsible Minister as soon as possible following government formation.

Electoral Commission (EC)

Independent Crown Entity

The EC's purpose is to conduct the General Election and other electoral events, and to maintain public confidence in the administration of electoral laws.

The Board of the EC consists of the Chair, Deputy Chair and the Chief Electoral Officer (the Chief Executive of the EC). The Chair and Deputy Chair have been in place for some time, while the Chief Electoral Officer took up her position in January 2017.

Human Rights Commission (HRC)

Independent Crown Entity

The HRC strives to provide better protection of human rights in New Zealand. It has an establishment of no less than four and no more than five full-time Commissioners.

Independent Police Conduct Authority (IPCA)

Independent Crown Entity

The IPCA's purpose is to promote trust and confidence in New Zealand Police.

The Board has experienced significant change in membership over the last two years, with two new members being appointed in October 2015 and Judge Colin Doherty taking up the position of Chair on 31 August 2017.

Law Commission

Independent Crown Entity

The Law Commission is charged with the systematic review, reform and development of the law. It investigates and reports to Parliament on how laws can be improved in specific areas that it is asked to investigate by the responsible Minister.

Privacy Commissioner

Independent Crown Entity

The Office of the Privacy Commissioner works to develop and promote a culture in which personal information is protected and respected. The Privacy Commissioner investigates complaints and makes regulatory decisions under the Privacy Act.

Public Trust (purchase contract)

Autonomous Crown Entity

Public Trust provides New Zealanders with products and services including wills, legal, financial, investment, trusts, estate administration and estate protection. The Ministry purchases services through Public Trust's Services Agreement with the Minister of Justice.

The Ministry has policy responsibility for the Public Trust Act 2001 but Public Trust itself is monitored by the Crown Operations Group in the Treasury. The Ministry monitors in respect of the services purchased under the Services Agreement.

Real Estate Agents Authority (REAA)

Crown Agent

The purpose of the REAA is to increase consumer protection and increase confidence in the real estate industry.

Appendix E: Information about the Ministry

Ministry of Justice structure



Key contacts

PERSON	POSITION	PHONE	EMAIL
Strategic Leadership Team			
Andrew Bridgman	Chief Executive Secretary for Justice	04 494 9850 Section 9(2)(a)	andrew.bridgman@justice.govt.nz
Andy Coster	Deputy Chief Executive	04 913 6392 Section 9(2)(a)	andy.coster@justice.govt.nz
Carl Crafar	Chief Operating Officer – Operations and Service Delivery	04 466 1925 Section 9(2)(a)	carl.crafar@justice.govt.nz
Colin Lynch	Deputy Chief Executive – Sector	04 466 0866 Section 9(2)(a)	colin.lynch@justice.govt.nz
Suzanne Stew	Deputy Secretary – Corporate	04 466 4029 Section 9(2)(a)	suzanne.stew@justice.govt.nz
Tina Wakefield	Deputy Secretary – ICT Services Chief Information Officer	04 466 4001 Section 9(2)(a)	tina.wakefield@justice.govt.nz
Rajesh Chhana	Deputy Secretary – Policy	04 494 9909 Section 9(2)(a)	rajesh.chhana@justice.govt.nz
Nigel Fyfe	Deputy Secretary – Lead Negotiator	04 495 5914 Section 9(2)(a)	nigel.fyfe@justice.govt.nz
Office of Legal Counsel			
Jeff Orr	Chief Legal Counsel	04 494 9755 Section 9(2)(a)	jeff.orr@justice.govt.nz

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New Zealand Government