

19 January 2024

C175976

[REDACTED]

Tēnā koe [REDACTED]

Thank you for your request of 27 November 2023 to the Department of Corrections – Ara Poutama Aotearoa (Corrections), requesting information about nominations and applications for the Community Impact Forum. Your request has been considered under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA).

In order to establish a new corrections facility (Auckland South Corrections Facility), Corrections was required, under the Resource Management Act 1991, to lodge an application to amend the existing planning designation in the Manukau City District Plan to allow for a men’s prison to be built. The application for the amendment to the designation was publicly notified.

In granting approval, the Board of Inquiry imposed a number of conditions that Corrections had to comply with which included the requirement to establish the following three committees to address possible social and cultural effects on the local community as a result of the establishment of the Auckland South Corrections Facility (ASCF) and the presence of the Auckland Region Women’s Corrections Facility (ARWCF):

- Community Impact Forum (CIF)
- Tangata Whenua Committee (TWC)
- Social Impact Fund Allocation Committee (SIFAC).

These three committees are linked and work alongside each other to identify and manage the effects on the community as a consequence of the two prisons ASCF and ARWCF being in close proximity in Wiri, South Auckland. These committees play a key role in enabling Corrections to work with the community and ensure concerns regarding the prisons are addressed.

One of the conditions imposed by the Board of Inquiry is the membership of the CIF, and where that membership can be invited from – please see paragraphs 41(a) and (b) of the report published on the Environmental Protection Authority’s website:

<https://www.epa.govt.nz/assets/FileAPI/proposal/NSP000011/Boards-decision/548ddc6880/Wiri-Draft-decision-volume-2-Conditions.pdf>

You requested:

I noted from this Ministry of Women's response, - MW DOIA- 23-24-0010, You have recently sought nomination for the Community Impact Forum

May I ask how you called for public nomination and on what platform you have call for public nominations for the Community Impact Forum, e.g. govt.jobs website. Also, how many applications you have received from the public and how many you have received from other nominating agencies such as TPK or Ministry of women etc with you most recent call for nomination. Also, can you please supply the term of appointment and member's pay rate.

Corrections previously extended the timeframe of our response in accordance with section 15A(1)(b) of the OIA.

The purpose of the CIF is to provide a forum for community and stakeholder involvement through which any issues of community interest or concern can be raised and responded to. The key focus for the CIF is to consider the effects that ASCF and ARWCF may have on the community.

The chairperson position for CIF is a ministerial appointed role. Applications can be received through recommendations from relevant government agencies and Auckland Council. Applications from individual members of the public are not considered.

The most recent call for nominations for the CIF and SIFAC chairperson position was made on 1 July 2022. In 2022, four nominations for the CIF chairperson position were received by nominating agencies, which included Ministry for Women, Ministry for Ethnic Communities, Te Puni Kōkiri and Department of Corrections.

The Minister of Corrections has the responsibility of appointing an independent Chairperson in consultation with the Minister for Māori Development and the Auckland Council to serve on the CIF and the SIFAC. The Chairperson will serve a term of three years, at the end of which, they may be reappointed if available, and at the discretion of the Minister. The Chairperson has a daily fee of \$600 for chairing the CIF.

Other CIF members are appointed after being invited to join the forum by the appointed Chairperson and may be from one of the groups mentioned in paragraphs 41(a) and (b), previously linked in this response. The CIF members can be appointed for a term of two years, at the end of which, they may be reappointed if available, and agreed to by their respective organisation. They receive an honorarium of \$325 (on a pro rata basis), to cover reasonable expenses to attend meetings.

I trust the information provided is of assistance. I encourage you to raise any concerns about this response with Corrections. Alternatively, you are advised of your right to also raise any concerns with the Office of the Ombudsman. Contact details are: Office of the Ombudsman, PO Box 10152, Wellington 6143.

Ngā mihi

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kerry-Leigh Dougall', written in a cursive style.

Kerry-Leigh Dougall
Deputy Chief Executive Māori