



Regulatory Standards Board APH Paper – for approval and Ministerial consultation

Date	10 March 2026	Priority	High
Security classification	In confidence	Tracking number	MFR2026-053
Attachments	Annex One: APH paper - Regulatory Standards Board: Recommendations for appointment by the Governor-General		

Action sought

Required from	Action	Deadline
Hon David Seymour Minister for Regulation	Agree to consult your Ministerial colleagues on recommendations to the Governor-General for appointments to the Regulatory Standards Board. Note that at least five days of Ministerial consultation is required prior to the APH meeting on 24 March 2026.	12 March 2026

Contact for discussion if required

Name	Position	Phone number	1 st contact
Aisling Risdon	Head of Ministerial and Strategic Services	s 9(2)(a)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Elaine Garland	Principal Advisor - Governance	s 9(2)(a)	<input type="checkbox"/>

Minister's office to complete

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Approved | <input type="checkbox"/> Declined |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Noted | <input type="checkbox"/> Needs change |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Seen | <input type="checkbox"/> Overtaken by events |
| <input type="checkbox"/> See Minister's notes | <input type="checkbox"/> Withdrawn |

Comments

Annex One is excluded from this proactive release consistent with section 9(2)(a) of the Official Information Act 1982 and in line with Cabinet Office Circular CO (23) 04 on *Proactive Release of Cabinet Material: Updated Requirements* which specifically excludes APH papers and minutes from proactive release for reasons of privacy



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Purpose

We seek your agreement to begin Ministerial consultation on the draft Cabinet Appointments and Honours Committee (APH) paper *Regulatory Standards Board: Recommendations for appointment by the Governor-General*.

Recommended Action

The Ministry for Regulation recommends that you:

- a **agree** to consult your Ministerial colleagues on the recommendations to the Governor-General for appointments to the Regulatory Standards Board in the attached APH paper *Agree / Disagree*
- b **note** at least five days of consultation is required *Noted*
- c **note** the APH paper will need to be lodged with the Cabinet Office before the 10am deadline on 19 March 2026 to ensure that it is considered at the APH meeting on 24 March 2026. *Noted*

Proactive release

- d **agree** for this briefing to be released once the appointments are complete and gazetted, with some information withheld in accordance with the provisions of the Official Information Act 1982. *Agree / Disagree*

s 9(2)(a)



Paula Knaap
DCE Organisational Enablement
Ministry for Regulation
Date: 10 March 2026

Hon David Seymour
Minister for Regulation
Date:



Background

1. Last week you agreed to recommend seven candidates to the Governor-General for appointment to the Regulatory Standards Board (the Board) [MFR2026-042 refers]. The candidates are:
 - a. Mr Paul Ridley-Smith, as a member and Chairperson for a term of five years
 - b. Mr Ian Chamberlain as a member for a term of four years
 - c. Professor Ananish Chaudhuri as a member for a term of five years
 - d. Mr James Christmas as a member for a term of four years
 - e. Mr Carl Hansen as a member for a term of five years
 - f. Ms Julie Hardaker as a member for a term of five years
 - g. Dr Nicola Swain as a member for a term of four years.
2. As the appointments will be considered by APH in accordance with standard appointment processes, Ministerial consultation on the draft Cabinet paper will be undertaken prior to lodging for APH and Cabinet discussion.
3. In the Cabinet paper *Initial notice to exclude selected legislation from the Regulatory Standards Act 2025* you are seeking Cabinet's agreement to authorise drafting instructions to the Parliamentary Counsel Office to draft an Order in Council to bring Part 2 of the Regulatory Standards Act 2025 (the Act) into force as soon as reasonably practicable after the publication of the exclusion notice. Bringing Part 2 of the Act into force early would enable the Board to be established and operating ahead of 1 July 2026.

Comment

Length of terms and commencement dates

4. As the timetable for an Order in Council to commence relevant provisions of Part 2 of the Regulatory Standards Act 2025 is still subject to Cabinet decisions, we have set the date for commencement of members' terms to take effect the moment the Governor-General signs and dates the instruments of appointment.
5. The appointment terms for members are staggered to ensure that experience and institutional knowledge are not lost during subsequent appointment rounds. Four members are recommended for five-year terms (including the Chairperson), and three members for four-year terms.
6. The terms will, therefore, be slightly short of full four- or five-year terms, to ensure that members appointed for five-year terms to not exceed the maximum stated under clause 1 of Schedule 3 of the Act, and for consistency when making appointments or reappointments in future.
7. Attached at **Annex One** is the APH paper advising of your intention to recommend to the Governor-General:
 - a. Mr Paul Ridley-Smith, as a member and Chairperson, for a term of five years commencing on the date of appointment and ending on 31 March 2031



- b. Mr Ian Chamberlain as a member for a term of four years commencing on the date of appointment and ending on 31 March 2030
 - c. Professor Ananish Chaudhuri as a member for a term of five years commencing on the date of appointment and ending on 31 March 2031
 - d. Mr James Christmas as a member for a term of four years commencing on the date of appointment and ending on 31 March 2030
 - e. Mr Carl Hansen as a member for a term of five years commencing on the date of appointment and ending on 31 March 2031
 - f. Ms Julie Hardaker as a member for a term of five years commencing on the date of appointment and ending on 31 March 2031
 - g. Dr Nicola Swain as a member for a term of four years commencing on the date of appointment and ending on 31 March 2030.
8. Should you wish to make any changes to the attached paper, we will work with your Office to incorporate these and provide you with a revised paper as soon as possible.

Outstanding due diligence checks

9. Final due diligence checks are underway for the candidates, and we expect to complete these prior to the lodgement date of 19 March 2026. The APH paper notes that these final checks are underway and that the paper will be updated once these are complete.
10. The checks still outstanding for the seven candidates are:
- qualification checks
 - referee checks
 - conflicts of interest
 - checking of the Candidate CV forms by the candidates for accuracy.

Conflicts of interest

11. We would expect that in the normal course of the Board's work it is likely that members will have conflicts from time to time depending on the legislation or Government Bill under consideration. Disclosure and management of interests will occur in accordance with clauses 11–13 of Schedule 3 of the Act.

Ministerial consultation

12. You are expected to consult with your Ministerial colleagues on all significant appointments to bodies within your portfolios, providing a minimum of five working days for consultation.

Risks

13. If this paper is not considered by APH on 24 March 2026, the next scheduled APH meeting is 21 April 2026 due to the Easter recess. If there is a delay in Ministerial consultation, or for some other reason, the only earlier option will be taking the APH paper to the Cabinet



Business Committee meeting on 30 March 2026. Should this option need to be considered further we will discuss next steps with your office.

Next steps

14. The APH paper will be updated to reflect the outcome of the final due diligence checks. The Organisation form and Candidate CV forms will also need to be attached. The documents should be lodged in CabNet no later than 10am on Thursday 19 March 2026, to ensure the paper is included for the APH meeting agenda on Tuesday 24 March 2026.

Proactive release

15. We intend to delay the proactive release of this paper until the appointments are completed and gazetted, with some information withheld in accordance with the provisions of the Official Information Act 1982 and Privacy Act 2020.



Annex One: APH paper - Regulatory Standards Board: Recommendations for appointment by the Governor-General

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