



## Withdrawal of candidate for appointment to the Regulatory Standards Board

<b>Date</b>	15 April 2026	<b>Priority</b>	Medium
<b>Security classification</b>	In confidence	<b>Tracking number</b>	MFR2026-079
<b>Attachments</b>	Annex 1: Email from the candidate advising his withdrawal Annex 2: Letter to the Governor-General advising that a candidate has withdrawn		

### Action sought

Required from	Action	Deadline
Hon David Seymour <b>Minister for Regulation</b>	<b>Sign</b> the letter to the Governor-General advising that one candidate withdrew from consideration for appointment to the Board after the warrant was signed	20 April 2026

### Contact for discussion if required

Name	Position	Phone number	1 <sup>st</sup> contact
Anshuman Chakraborty	Head of Legal	s 9(2)(a)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Elainé 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 Withdrawn           |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



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### Purpose

We seek your agreement to sign the letter to the Governor-General advising the withdrawal of one of the candidates you recommended for appointment to the Regulatory Standards Board (the **Board**).

### Recommended Action

The Ministry for Regulation recommends that you:

- a **agree** to sign the letter to the Governor-General advising that one candidate withdrew from consideration for appointment to the Board after their warrant was signed *Agree / Disagree*
  
- b **note** that as advised by Cabinet Office and in accordance with Government House protocol, the warrant of appointment signed by the Governor-General has been destroyed *noted*

Proactive release

- c **agree** that this briefing may be released once the appointments are completed and notified in the Gazette, with some information withheld in accordance with the provisions of the Official Information Act 1982 and Privacy Act 2020. *Agree / Disagree*

s 9(2)(a)



Paula Knaap  
**DCE Organisational Enablement**  
Ministry for Regulation  
Date: 15 April 2026

Hon David Seymour  
**Minister for Regulation**  
Date:



## Background

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1. On 1 April 2026 the Governor-General signed the warrants of appointment for the seven individuals you recommended for appointment to Regulatory Standards Board (the **Board**).
2. On 13 April 2026 we were advised that Mr James Christmas s 9(2)(a) [REDACTED] and would be withdrawing from the appointment process for membership of the Board, attached at Annex One.
3. The advice was received after the Governor-General had signed the warrant of appointment for Mr Christmas.

## Comment

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4. The clause 3, Schedule 3 of the Regulatory Standards Act 2025 (the Act) relating to the resignation of members clause (of the Act) has relevance. Before the warrant of appointment was despatched to the member, we received Mr Christmas's wish to withdraw. We have, therefore, sought advice from the Cabinet Office on the correct way forward.
5. Cabinet Office recommended that you advise the Governor-General that the appointment was not completed, and that the warrant of appointment for the candidate has been destroyed in accordance with Government House protocol. We have attached a letter for your consideration at Annex Two, including an updated Organisation Form for the Board.
6. The letter also advises that under sections 37 and 38 of the Act you can recommend to the Governor-General, up to seven members to be appointed to the Board, including the Chairperson. Accordingly, six persons meet the statutory requirement in section 37 of the Act for appointment.

## Next steps

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7. Should you agree, sign the letter to the Governor-General and forward to the Cabinet Office.

## Proactive release

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



## **Annex 1: Email from the candidate advising his withdrawal**

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## **Annex 2: Letter to the Governor-General advising that candidate has withdrawn**

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**From:** James Christmas s 9(2)(a)  
**Sent:** Monday, 13 April 2026 4:10 pm  
**To:** Board Appointment  
**Cc:** Matt Steele  
**Subject:** Re: Regulatory Standards Board - media pack preparation

Good afternoon,

My apologies for the break in responses.

s 9(2)(a) I will need to  
withdraw from the process and not accept membership of the Board.

Please let me know anything further you need from me.

My apologies for any administration this causes on your side.

Yours sincerely,  
James Christmas



Her Excellency The Right Honourable Dame Cindy Kiro, GNZM, QSO  
Governor-General of New Zealand  
Government House  
Private Bag 39995  
Wellington Mail Centre  
Lower Hutt 5045

Your Excellency

## **Withdrawal of a candidate for appointment to the Regulatory Standards Board**

My letter of 31 March 2026 recommended to Your Excellency seven individuals for appointment to the Regulatory Standards Board (the **Board**).

Earlier this week I was advised that one of the individuals, Mr James Christmas (member candidate), wished to withdraw from consideration for appointment.

Clause 3, Schedule 3 of the Regulatory Standards Act 2025 (the **Act**) relating to the resignation of members, has relevance. Before the warrant of appointment was despatched to the member I was advised of Mr Christmas's wish to withdraw. Therefore, following advice from Cabinet Office and in accordance with Government House protocol the warrant of appointment for the candidate has been destroyed.

Under sections 37 and 38 of the Act, I am empowered as the Minister for Regulation to recommend to the Governor-General up to seven members to be appointed to the Board, including the Chairperson.

Accordingly, six persons meet the statutory requirement in section 37 of the Act for appointment. I have, therefore, completed the appointments for the six remaining members (including the Chairperson). They are:

- Mr Paul Ridley-Smith as a member and Chairperson for a term not exceeding five years commencing on 1 May 2026 and ending on 30 April 2031;
- Mr Ian Chamberlain as a member for a term not exceeding four years commencing on 1 May 2026 and ending on 30 April 2030;
- Professor Ananish Chaudhuri as a member for a term not exceeding five years commencing on 1 May 2026 and ending on 30 April 2031;
- Mr Carl Hansen as a member for a term not exceeding five years commencing on 1 May 2026 and ending on 30 April 2031;

- Ms Julie Hardaker as a member for a term not exceeding five years commencing 1 May 2026 and ending on 30 April 2031;
- Dr Nicola Swain as a member for a term not exceeding four years commencing on 1 May 2026 and ending on 30 April 2030.

I have attached a copy of the Organisation Form for your information.

Yours sincerely,

The APH Organisation Form is excluded from this proactive release. This is consistent with section 9(2)(a) of the Official Information Act 1982 to protect the privacy of natural persons, 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.

Hon David Seymour  
**Minister for Regulation**