



26 May 2020

Hon Dame Fran Wilde DNZM, QSO
Chair
Remuneration Authority
PO Box 10084
Wellington

Dear Dame Fran,

Thank you for your letter dated 17 March 2020 regarding the Authority's determination for the position of the State Services Commissioner. I have attached the information you have requested.

As you are aware, since being appointed to the role of State Services Commissioner in 2016, I have each year asked requested the Authority to award a nil increase to my remuneration. I make the same request this year.

In April, Public Service Chief Executives, along with Ministers, agreed to voluntarily take a pay reduction of 20 per cent for six months. This was the right thing to do in acknowledgement of the circumstances many New Zealanders now find themselves as a result of the country's response to COVID-19. You are probably aware that, like many senior leaders across the public service, I have publicly committed to taking a similar reduction in pay.

I am aware that the Government has now put in place the mechanism for making these pay reductions, via the Remuneration Authority (COVID-19 Measures) Amendment Act, and that you intend to make your determinations in time to put them in place by 30 June 2020.

I understand that the Authority is currently working through the process of statutory decision making in line with the legislation. For the avoidance of doubt, I would like to make it clear that my preference is for the Authority to make a temporary reduction to my pay of 20 per cent for six months, in line with the reduction agreed by Public Service Chief Executives.

Kind regards,


Peter Hughes
State Services Commissioner