

Office of Hon Chris Hipkins

MP for Remutaka

Minister for COVID-19 Response

Minister of Education

Minister for the Public Service

Leader of the House



19 May 2021

Erin Polaczuk and Kerry Davies
PSA National Secretaries
PSA House
PO Box 3817
Wellington 6011

Dear Erin and Kerry,

Thank you for meeting with the Prime Minister and me last week. The Prime Minister has referred your letter of 14 May 2021 to me, as Minister for the Public Service, as I have portfolio responsibility for this matter.

Following our recent conversations, I have discussed your request contained in that letter with the Public Service Commissioner, and I can confirm that I have asked him, as you have outlined in your letter, to work with Public Service departments to ensure that bargaining during the period of the recently published Pay Guidance advances the goal of implementing step-based progression where the criteria are transparent, recognise experience and minimise discretion, and also that low paid jobs will be prioritised.

The Commissioner has advised me that he will include this in advice that he is intending to send to chief executives, supporting implementation of his guidance, following recent discussions between Ministers and unions.

Thank you for working constructively with me on this matter.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'CH', written over a light blue horizontal line.

Chris Hipkins
Minister for the Public Service