



**New Zealand House of Representatives**  
Te Whare Māngai o Aotearoa

## **Petitions Committee**

Komiti Whiriwhiri Take Petihana

54th Parliament  
July 2025

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# **Petition of Tanya Dunstan: Require a public hearing into judicial conduct when eight complaints received**

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The Petitions Committee has considered the petition of Tanya Dunstan, which was presented to the House on 12 June 2024 by Hon Carmel Sepuloni. The petition was signed by 11 people, and requests:

That the House of Representatives pass legislation to require a public hearing into judicial conduct when 8 or more members of the public make a complaint about the judicial misconduct of any judge.

We invited, but did not accept, a written submission from the petitioner. Parliament's select committees have a responsibility not to accept submissions that may undermine the mutually respectful relationship between the legislative and judicial branches of government.<sup>1</sup>

Parliament established the Office of the Judicial Conduct Commissioner in 2005 by enacting the Judicial Conduct Commissioner and Judicial Conduct Panel Act 2004. Parliament therefore has a role in overseeing the legislation, as required. However, a parliamentary petition is not the right avenue to address specific concerns around judicial conduct.

We have no further matters to bring to the attention of the House. We recommend that the House take note of our report.

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<sup>1</sup> Parliamentary Practice in New Zealand, Chapter 29, which is [available on the Parliament website](#).