The Law Commission when reviewing the Judicature Act made the following telling observations.

3.65 There is also a danger, routinely rehearsed in the academic literature, that judges approaching the retirement age could make decisions favourable to the government in order to secure an acting appointment.

3.64 A judge who retires on a full pension under the pre-1992 judges’ scheme can become an acting judge under the new scheme and in effect receive a salary plus what some might see as double retirement support.

3.70 Depending on the method of selection, the use of acting judges may also create a risk of particular judges being appointed to influence the outcome of a decision.

http://ip29.publications.lawcom.govt.nz/chapter+3+-+judicial+appointments/acting+judges