

15/12/2023

By email to: [REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

### **OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT REQUEST 2023/114**

On 30 November 2023 you made a request under the Official Information Act 1982 (the OIA) for the following information:

*I am after details around ALL donations made to political campaigns by Lobbying groups or by people representing lobbying groups.*

*The name of the group or person, the amount they donated, and to who/which party.*

All party returns of donations showing the information requested are publicly available. More information about where you can find this information is below.

Registered parties must let the Electoral Commission know within 10 working days when they receive more than \$20,000 from a single donor between 1 January of election year and the day before election day (13 October 2023). This information can be found here:

<https://elections.nz/democracy-in-nz/political-parties-in-new-zealand/donations-exceeding-20000/>

From 1 January 2011 to 31 December 2022, registered political parties had to disclose within 10 working days when they got more than \$30,000 from a single donor within a 12-month period. These returns are available here: <https://elections.nz/democracy-in-nz/political-parties-in-new-zealand/donations-exceeding-20000/donations-exceeding-30000/>

Our website lists donors, which registered party they donated to, and how much they donated. While the name of a donor is required to be disclosed on the form, there is no obligation to disclose whether the donor is a lobby group or is a person representing a lobby group.

Registered political parties must file a return of the donations and loans they get each year. We make these returns available to the public here: <https://elections.nz/democracy-in-nz/political-parties-in-new-zealand/party-donations-and-loans-by-year/>

Candidates must report donations to their election campaign that are over \$1,500, and from 1 January 2023, candidate loans. The rules for reporting candidate donations and loans can be found here: <https://elections.nz/guidance-and-rules/donations-and-loans/rules-for-candidate-donations-and-loans/>

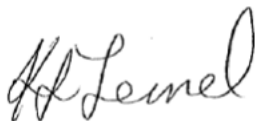
Candidate return forms have not yet been reported for the 2023 Election. These are due to be returned to the Commission 70 working days after election day. For the 2023 General Election, this falls on 14 February 2024. After this date candidate returns will be available to view on our website. The web page upon which the 2023 candidate return forms will be uploaded can be found here: <https://elections.nz/democracy-in-nz/historical-events/>. A '2023 General Election' tile will appear.

This web page currently contains information from previous elections. To see an example of what the 2023 candidate return forms will look like, you can find the 2020 General Election and Referendums candidate expenses and donations page here: <https://elections.nz/democracy-in-nz/historical-events/2020-general-election-and-referendums/candidate-expenses-and-donations-for-the-2020-general-election/>

Because all of the returns are publicly available, your request is refused under section 18(d) of the Act. In the interests of transparency, we release responses to Official Information Act requests every 3 months. We will publish this response with your personal details redacted.

You have the right under section 28(3) of the Act to make a complaint to the Ombudsman if you are not satisfied with the response to your request. Information about how to do this is available at [www.ombudsman.parliament.nz](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz) or by phoning 0800 802 602.

Yours sincerely



Kristina Temel  
Manager, Legal and Policy