

14/11/2023

By email to: [REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT REQUEST 2022/88

Thank you for your request of Wednesday, 25 October 2023 under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) regarding disclosure of donations. Specifically, you have asked for:

Dear electoral commission, under the official information act could you please tell me from the disclosure of donations political parties need to provide. How many individuals or companies donated to multiple different parties and candidates. For example, I'm aware that Meng Foon, and/or one of his companies donated to different parties and there's a few others like tellys fisheries, that also donate to both national and labour etc... So my question is can you tell me how of the donations received and declared by political parties how many donors donated to more than just one as in two multiple political parties or candidates across the political spectrum.

And:

What I'd like to know is of all the declared donors as legally needing to be disclosed by the political parties or candidates, how many have donated two different multiple parties and candidates across the spectrum.

As in I'm aware there is a few people like tellys fisheries and/or Peter Talijancich, who equally donate to both labour and national parties, and possibly even both candidates as well. Also Meng Foon and or one of his companies donated to both national and labour candidate is one I believe.

What I'm seeking to know is how many donors do that, split their donations or donate to multiple parties and candidates on different sides of the political divide... I'm aware others donate to New Zealand first, and national etc...

Can you tell me who's these individuals and companies are also the amount of their multiple donations and to whom, party and candidate's etc....

Just as another question, I assume political party or candidate donations aren't a tax write off, would you know if they can be written off as a business expense.

All party returns of donations showing the information requested are publicly available. On this basis, your request is refused under section 18(d) of the Act. 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. If a donor has donated more than once to different registered parties, their name will appear more than once in the table.

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/>

Your final question, *'I assume political party or candidate donations aren't a tax write off, would you know if they can be written off as a business expense,'* is refused under s18(e).

Electoral law does not provide for tax deductibility of donations to political parties. The Electoral Commission cannot advise on other business tax rules.

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 or by phoning 0800 802 602.

Yours sincerely



Kristina Temel
Manager Legal and Policy