

13 February 2024

By email to: [REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT REQUEST 2024/03

On Tuesday 16 January 2024 you made a request under the Official Information Act 1982 (the OIA) for the following information:

- *Provide all correspondence between the Electoral Commission and Better NZ Trust since the beginning of 2023.*
- *Provide any other correspondence, either within the Electoral Commission, or external correspondence that mentions the Better NZ Trust since the beginning of 2023.*

Copies of all correspondence between the Electoral Commission and the Better NZ Trust since the beginning of 2023, and correspondence within the Electoral Commission or external correspondence that mentions the Better NZ Trust since the beginning of 2023, are attached.

Some individual personal information such as phone numbers, email addresses, signatures, and some names have been withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the OIA to protect the privacy of natural persons. Some details have been withheld under section 9(2)(b)(ii) where the making available of the information would be likely to prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied or who is the subject of the information. Some details have been withheld under section 9(2)(g)(i) to maintain the effective conduct of public affairs through the free and frank expression of opinions by or between or to members of an organisation in the course of their duty. Some information has been withheld under section 9(2)(ba) to protect information which is subject to an obligation of confidence, where the making available of the information would be likely to prejudice the supply of similar information, or information from the same source, and it is in the public interest that such information should continue to be supplied, or would likely to otherwise damage the public interest.

In each case where redactions have been made, consideration has been given to and I am satisfied that the reasons for withholding of the information are not outweighed by other considerations which render it desirable, in the public interest to make that information available.

Date	Correspondent	Matter	Notes
13-16 Aug 2023	Rob Birnie, Director of Better NZ Trust	Registration as third party promoter	Some information withheld under section 9(2)(a)

13-18 Sep 2023	Supergood Ltd	Request for advisory opinion	Some information withheld under sections 9(2)(a), 9(2)(b)(ii), and 9(2)(ba)
13 Oct 2023	Rob Birnie, Director of Better NZ Trust	Election day rules reminder	
14 Oct 2023	Withheld	Complaint about election day rules	Some information withheld under section 9(2)(a)
30 Nov 2023	Rob Birnie, Director of Better NZ Trust	Third party expense return	Partially refused under section 18(d) as all returns will soon be publicly available on the Electoral Commission's website
4-19 Dec 2023	Jordan Williams, Executive Director of the Taxpayers' Union	Complaint about false statement	Some information withheld under sections 9(2)(ba) and (9)(2)(g)(i)

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