

20/03/24

[REDACTED]
By mail to:

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Kia ora [REDACTED]

OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT REQUEST 2024/16

On 4 March 2023 the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment received a request you made under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act).

On 5 March 2023 the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment transferred your request to the Electoral Commission. The Electoral Commission is responding under the Act to your request for the following information:

What are the requirements for founding a political party in New Zealand?

What are the requirements for registering a political party for the "party vote"?

Are there any restrictions on criminals founding, registering, or holding office within a political party in New Zealand?

Are there any restrictions on criminals being candidates for Parliament or being Members of Parliament?

If possible I want to found the political party before I leave prison. Is this technically possible or will I have to wait until I am deported to New Zealand?

We have attached the Party Registration Handbook to this letter which will help answer your questions, particularly regarding starting and registering a political party in New Zealand.

There are no restrictions on a person founding or having a position in a political party who has a criminal record or who is currently in prison. However, to be eligible to be a candidate in a New Zealand election, you must be enrolled to vote and be a New Zealand citizen.

You are not eligible to enrol to vote (and therefore cannot stand as a candidate) if you're either:

- a New Zealand citizen outside New Zealand who hasn't been in New Zealand within the last 3 years, or
- in prison serving a sentence of 3 years or more

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