

3 May 2024

By email to: [REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT REQUEST 2024/23

On Thursday 4 April 2024 you made a request under the Official Information Act 1982 (the OIA) for the following information:

Actual and Budgeted Expenditure:

Please provide a breakdown of the actual and budgeted expenditure on PR and Communications support for the current financial year, as well as the previous two financial years, for Electoral Commission.

Procurement Process:

For each instance of expenditure on PR and Communications support, please indicate whether the services were procured through an open tender process or if it was a closed process. In accordance with the principles of the Official Information Act, I seek to understand the transparency and competitiveness of the procurement process.

Service Providers:

Please provide the names of the companies, agencies, or individuals that received payment for providing PR and Communications services to Electoral Commission. Additionally, I request the value of the contracts awarded to each service provider.

The objective of this request is to gain a comprehensive understanding of the Electoral Commission investment in PR and Communications support, the processes by which these services are procured, and the entities that are engaged in providing these services.

The PR and Communications support information for the current and previous two financial years that you have requested are summarised in the table below.

Financial year	Supplier	Type of service or product	Total cost	Procurement
2023/24	SenateSHJ	Crisis preparedness planning and scenario testing (communications) for the 2023 General Election	\$39,995	Direct appointment

	Robert Walters	Senior Communications contractor to support media engagement for the 2023 General Election	\$80,521	Direct appointment
	iSentia	Media monitoring	\$68,426	Direct appointment
2022/23	I AM Unlimited Ltd	Media training for General Election and Māori Electoral Option spokespeople	\$6,500	Direct appointment
	SenateSHJ	Support for implementation of overarching communications and engagement strategy	\$36,679	Closed tender
	iSentia	Media monitoring	\$35,235	Direct appointment
2021/22	I AM Unlimited Ltd	Media training for senior managers called on to provide media interviews	\$10,650	Direct appointment
	SenateSHJ	Support for development of overarching communications and engagement strategy	\$74,031	Closed tender
	iSentia	Media monitoring	\$18,471	Direct appointment

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



Suzanne Knight-Tinirau
Manager Communications and Education