

20 March 2026

By email to: [REDACTED]

Kia ora [REDACTED]

OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT REQUEST 2026/05

On Tuesday, 27 January 2026, you made a request under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) for the following information:

Following the 2023 report by the Auditor-General into election processes, the Electoral Commission was given seven specific recommendations relating to vote counting, quality assurance, staffing, technology, systems, and risk management.

I request the following information in relation to those recommendations [we have added numbers to make it easier to refer to each part of your request]:

- 1. All documents, reports, briefings, internal assessments, audits, or progress updates that show what actions have been taken to implement each of the seven recommendations.*
- 2. For each recommendation, any final sign-off documents or internal confirmations stating whether the recommendation has been fully implemented, partially implemented, or not implemented.*
- 3. Any timelines, implementation plans, or work programmes developed in response to the Auditor-General's recommendations.*
- 4. Any advice, briefings, or reports provided to the Minister of Justice, Cabinet, or other ministers relating to the implementation of these recommendations.*
- 5. Any internal risk assessments, assurance reports, or readiness reviews prepared since 2023 that relate to:*
 - vote counting and quality assurance controls*
 - election workforce capability and contingencies*
 - hardware and IT system fitness for purpose*
 - election risk identification and management*
- 6. Any documents prepared since 2023 assessing whether election systems and processes are ready for the 2026 General Election.*

On 16 February, the Commission contacted you to extend the timeframe to respond to your request, as your request required a search through a large quantity of information, and meeting the initial time limit would unreasonably interfere with the operations of the Commission. You were advised

that you could expect a response no later than 25 March 2026. We also asked if you would agree to refine parts 1 and 3 of your request to:

documents that primarily or significantly focus on the recommendations, including summary progress reports, and on timelines and implementation plans for the key election workstreams: enrolment; election delivery temporary workforce (which includes recruitment); support for election delivery workforce (which includes training); general election temporary IT infrastructure; and post-election period.

On 17 February, you agreed to both changes. The tables in Appendix A list the documents that fall within parts 1, 3, 4, 5 and 6 of your request and our decision on each one's release. We have responded to part 2 of your request in the main body of this letter.

The Electoral Commission fully accepted the report from the Office of the Auditor-General (OAG) when it was released in 2024 and, as part of our response, we commissioned PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC) to undertake an independent audit of our processes.

We have embedded the recommendations, lessons learned, and improvements from both the OAG and PwC reports into everything we are doing to prepare for this year's general election. This is reflected in our latest Statement of Intent and Statement of Performance Expectations, which are available here: [Statements of intent and performance expectations | Elections NZ](#). An update on implementation of the recommendations was also [published on our website in October 2025](#).

The regular updates to the Electoral Commission Board included in the documents released to you provide the clearest way to see our progress against the recommendations (see documents 1.4, 1.5, 1.6, 1.19, 1.20, 1.26 and 1.38). We have tested the systems improvements made to date in our voting place and results simulations (see documents 6.2, 6.3, and 6.6) and at the 2025 Tāmaki Makaurau by-election (see document 5.3), which will help us make further refinements ahead of the election.

The following is intended to help you navigate the large number of documents.

- Where a document comes under two parts of your request, we have referenced it both times but provided the document only once.
- The tables include papers that go to the Electoral Commission Board and those that go to the Programme Board. The Programme Board is an internal group that oversees the delivery of the general election programme of work.
- Some documents (for instance, 1.9 and 1.10) were created on the assumption that the Commission would be funded a scaled version for baseline; however, we received the full preferred option for funding, with a few minor adjustments.
- Some of the milestones in the workstream and project management plans listed at part 3 are based on a 19 September election date. That date was used for planning purposes only, and milestones have been updated since the Prime Minister announced the election date.

- Some of the milestones in the PwC / OAG explainer document (ref. 3.1) were changed; for instance, the operational simulation was moved from October to April.

In many cases, we have withheld content that is out of scope and / or provided excerpts under section 16(1)(e) of the Act, as a way to refine the information provided. You will see this in the workstream and project management plans listed at part 3, where we have focused on providing content that relates to things that have been added to the plans specifically in response to the OAG's recommendations. For the quarterly reports listed at part 4, we have not included the financial statements and performance measurement sections, which are not directly related to the OAG's recommendations.

Some information has been withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the Act to protect the privacy of natural persons. Some information has been withheld under section 9(2)(b)(ii) of the OIA where the making available of the information would be likely unreasonably to prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied or who is the subject of the information. Some information has been withheld under section 9(2)(j) to enable the Commission to carry on, without prejudice or disadvantage, commercial negotiations.

Some information has been withheld under section 9(2)(g)(i) of the Act on the ground that the withholding of the information is necessary to maintain the effective conduct of public affairs through the free and frank expression of opinions by or between or to Ministers of the Crown or members of an organisation or officers and employees of any public service agency or organisation in the course of their duty.

Some technical security information has been withheld as disclosure of this information would prejudice the Commission's ability to prevent and detect cyber security threats and may also result in exposure of the information to those who may use this information for improper gain. This gain or advantage could damage trust and confidence in the electoral system and has been redacted under section 6(c) of the Act on the ground that making this information available would be likely to prejudice the maintenance of the law, and under section 9(2)(k) of the Act on the ground that withholding this information is necessary to prevent the disclosure or use of official information for improper gain or improper advantage.

In each case where redactions have been made under section 9, 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.

You also requested the following:

For each recommendation, any final sign-off documents or internal confirmations stating whether the recommendation has been fully implemented, partially implemented, or not implemented [part 2 of your request].

The relevant workstream owner, action owner or project manager provides updates on the status of progress on recommendations to the Programme Board. The Risk and Assurance (R&A) team assesses the updates before deciding whether any have been fully implemented and can be closed. Any closure would need to be verified by sufficient evidence to confirm completion. The R&A team provides quarterly updates to the Electoral Commission Board on progress against the recommendations; these are included in the documents under part 1 of your request (see documents 1.4, 1.5, 1.6, 1.19, 1.20, 1.26, and 1.38).

In the interests of transparency, we release responses to Official Information Act requests every three 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.

Once you have read through all the documents, I would be happy to meet with you to talk about the Commission's response to the OAG's recommendations. Please email the media team at media@elections.govt.nz if you would like to arrange an interview.

Yours sincerely



Karl Le Quesne
Chief Electoral Officer

Appendix A: Documents that fall within scope of the request

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Part 1: Documents, reports, briefings, internal assessments, audits, or progress updates that show what actions have been taken to implement each of the seven recommendations (refined to those that primarily or significantly focus on the recommendations, including summary progress reports).

#	Date	Document Type	Title	Decision on release
1.1	19.06.2024	Minutes	09 EC Board General Meeting Minutes 19 June 2024	Excerpt provided under s16(1)(e) of the Act Some information withheld as out of scope
1.2	17.07.2024	Electoral Commission (EC) Board paper	24.10-03a Quarterly Risk and Assurance update and Strategic Risk Review	Some information withheld as out of scope
1.3	17.07.2024	Appendix to 1.2	24.10-03a Appendix A ELT and Board Risk Profile – July 2024	Excerpt provided under s16(1)(e) of the Act Some information withheld as out of scope
1.4	17.07.2024	Appendix to 1.2	24.10-03b Appendix B OAG Recommendations – update on progress and next steps	Released in full
1.5	15.10.2024	Minutes	13 EC Board General meeting Minutes 15 October 2024	Excerpt provided under s16(1)(e) of the Act Some information withheld as out of scope
1.6	13.11.2024	Minutes	14 EC Board General meeting Minutes 13 November 2024	Excerpt provided under s16(1)(e) of the Act Some information withheld as out of scope
1.7	03.12.2024	Notes	06 Other matters [Notes for Commission attendees at the Select Committee Hearing, 3 December 2024]	Excerpt provided under s16(1)(e) of the Act Some information withheld as out of scope
1.8	16.12.2024	Internal briefing to workstream owners	Post-election Workstream – ‘Package A’ decision making on controls	Some information withheld under s9(2)(a)
1.9	28.01.2025	Briefing to Executive Leadership Team (ELT)	04 Budget Approach FY26 and FY27	Some information withheld as out of scope
1.10	28.01.2025	Appendix to 1.9	04a FY26 Budget Approach Presentation	Excerpt provided under s16(1)(e) of the Act
1.11	11.03.2025	Briefing to ELT	04 Changes in enrolment operations since GE23 to strengthen data integrity and assurance	Released in full

#	Date	Document Type	Title	Decision on release
1.12	11.03.2025	Appendix to 1.11	04a App A Change in Enrolment Operations since GE23	Some information withheld under s9(2)(a)
1.13	18.03.2025	Briefing to ELT	03 Business planning and Budgets for 2025/26 and 2026/27	Excerpt provided under s16(1)(e) of the Act Some information withheld as out of scope
1.14	18.03.2025	Appendix to 1.13	03a Appendix A – FY16 & FY27 budget update	Excerpt provided under s16(1)(e) of the Act
1.15	18.03.2025	Appendix to 1.13	03b Appendix B – List of discretionary items	Excerpt provided under s16(1)(e) of the Act Some information withheld under s9(2)(a) Some information withheld as out of scope
1.16	18.03.2025	Appendix to 1.13	03c Appendix C - Improvements	Released in full
1.17	07.05.2025	Briefing to ELT	04 Risk update to ELT and the Board	Released in full
N/A	07.05.2025	Appendix to 1.17	04a App A: Risk update and progress on assurance recommendations, Draft Board paper for 15 May 2025	This was a draft paper for ELT to consider. The final version is at 1.19, below.
N/A	07.05.2025	Appendix to 1.17	04b App B: Progress on assurance recommendations against OAG and PwC recommendations	This paper was tabled at the ELT meeting before becoming Appendix A to 25.05-09; see 1.19, below.
1.18	15.05.2025	EC Board paper	25.05-04 DRAFT Budgets for 2025/26 and 2026/27	Excerpt provided under s16(1)(e) of the Act Some information withheld as out of scope
1.19	15.05.2025	EC Board paper	25.05-09 Risk update and progress on assurance recommendations	Some information withheld under s9(2)(a) Some information withheld as out of scope
1.20	18.06.2025	EC Board paper	25.06-12 OAG and PwC Recommendations – update on progress and next steps	Released in full
1.21	18.06.2025	Appendix to 1.20	25.06-12a App C High level storyline example – enrolment changes	Released in full
N/A	30.06.2025	Statement of Intent	Statement of Intent 2025-2029	This is available on the Electoral Commission website at Statements of intent and performance expectations Elections

#	Date	Document Type	Title	Decision on release
N/A	30.06.2025	Statement of Performance Expectations	Statement of Performance Expectations 2025-2026	This is available on the Electoral Commission website at Statements of intent and performance expectations Elections
1.22	09.07.2025	Briefing to Programme Board	03. ERSa [Electoral Roll Scrutiny Application] audit trails and other functionality	Some information withheld under s9(2)(a) Some information withheld as out of scope
1.23	17.07.2025	EC Board paper	25.07-06 Risk & Assurance plan update	Released in full
1.24	17.07.2025	Appendix to 1.23	25.07-06a Appendix A: Overview of risk and assurance activity	Released in full
1.25	14.08.2025	EC Board paper	25.08-02 Progress on controls improvements	Released in full
1.26	14.08.2025	Appendix to 1.25	25.08-02 Appendix A: OAG / PwC Management Updates and Progress (as at 31 July 2025)	Released in full
1.27	14.08.2025	Appendix to 1.25	25.08-02 Appendix B: Proposed Integrity Improvements	Released in full
1.28	14.08.2025	EC Board paper	25.08-05 Health, Safety & Wellbeing Te Kauhanganui Critical Controls	Some information withheld under s9(2)(a) Some information withheld as out of scope
1.29	14.08.2025	Appendix to 1.28	25.08-05 Appendix A: Review of the General Election 2023 Health, Safety and Wellbeing Guardrails	Excerpt provided under s16(1)(e) of the Act Some information withheld as out of scope
1.30	14.08.2025	Appendix to 1.28	25.08.25 Appendix B: Te Kauhanganui Critical Controls Kete of Controls Workplan	Some information withheld under s9(2)(a)
1.31	16.09.2025	EC Board paper	25.09-08 Risk and controls update	Released in full
1.32	16.09.2025	Appendix to 1.31	25.09-08 Appendix A: Electoral Enrolment and Electoral Results quality assurance processes and controls – Management update	Released in full
N/A	October 2025	Report	Electoral Enrolment and Electoral Results quality assurance processes and controls: Management update	This is available on the Electoral Commission website at Electoral-Commission-management-response-to-PwC-October-2025.pdf

#	Date	Document Type	Title	Decision on release
1.33	09.10.2025	Briefing to Programme Board	04 Post-election Workforce Considerations	Some information withheld under s9(2)(a)
1.34	06.11.2025	Briefing to Programme Board	06 Te Kauhanganui Critical Controls Kete of Controls Recommendations	Some information withheld under s9(2)(a) Some information withheld as out of scope
N/A	06.11.2025	Appendix to 1.34	App 1: Te Kauhanganui Critical Controls Kete of Controls Workplan	This is the same document as 1.30, above
1.35	6.11.2025	Appendix to 1.34	App 3: Draft Fatigue Risk Assessment	Released in full
1.36	20.11.2025	Briefing to Programme Board	02. Temporary Enrolment Roles and Structure for Māori Electoral Option and General Election 2026	Some information withheld under s9(2)(a)
1.37	10.12.2025	EC Board paper	25.12-01 Quarterly Assurance report	Some information withheld under s9(2)(a) Some information withheld as out of scope
1.38	10.12.2025	Appendix to 1.37	25.12-01 Appendix A: OAG / PwC Management Updates and Progress (as at 30 November 2025)	Released in full
1.39	18.12.2025	Briefing to Programme Board	04 Post-election Decisions	Excerpt provided under s16(1)(e) of the Act Some information withheld under s9(2)(a) Some information withheld as out of scope

Part 2: For each recommendation, any final sign-off documents or internal confirmations stating whether the recommendation has been fully implemented, partially implemented, or not implemented. This is addressed in the body of the letter.

Part 3: Any timelines, implementation plans, or work programmes developed in response to the Auditor-General’s recommendations (refined to timelines and implementation plans for the key election workstreams: enrolment; election delivery temporary workforce (which includes recruitment); support for election delivery workforce (which includes training); general election temporary IT infrastructure; and post-election period).

#	Date	Document Type	Title	Decision on release
3.1	19.03.2025	Work Plan	PwC OAG explainer and overview of work background	Released in full
3.2	17.04.2025	Project Management Plan	Supporting Election Delivery Workforce Project Management Plan	Excerpt provided under s16(1)(e) of the Act Some information withheld under s9(2)(b)(ii) Some information withheld as out of scope
3.3	26.06.2025	Project Management Plan	04 GE2026 Workforce and Recruitment Plan June 2025 0.4 Draft	Excerpt provided under s16(1)(e) of the Act Some information withheld under s9(2)(g)(i) Some information withheld as out of scope
3.4	16.07.2025	Project Management Plan	Election Delivery Temporary Workforce (EDTW) Project Management Plan	Excerpt provided under s16(1)(e) of the Act Some information withheld under s9(2)(a) Some information withheld as out of scope
3.5	18.08.2025	Project Management Plan	03 Post-Election Workstream – Workstream Management Plan	Excerpt provided under s16(1)(e) of the Act Some information withheld under s9(2)(a) Some information withheld as out of scope
3.6	02.09.2025	Project Management Plan	Enrolment Workstream – Workstream Management Plan Version 0.5, September 2025	Excerpt provided under s16(1)(e) of the Act Some information withheld under s9(2)(a) Some information withheld under s9(2)(b)(ii) Some information withheld under s9(2)(j) Some information withheld as out of scope
3.7	03.12.2025	Project Management Plan	GETII [General Election Temporary IT Infrastructure] Workstream Management Plan (Version 1.0, Dec 2025)	Excerpt provided under s16(1)(e) of the Act Some information withheld as out of scope
3.8	18.02.2026	Implementation Plan	Enrolment Data Quality and Integrity Assurance Plan (v3.0, Feb 2026)	Some information withheld under s9(2)(a)

Part 4: Any advice, briefings, or reports provided to the Minister of Justice, Cabinet, or other ministers relating to the implementation of these recommendations.

#	Date	Document Type	Title	Decision on release
4.1	06.05.2024 (dated 6 May 2023 in error)	Aide Memoire to Minister	EC24-002 Aide memoire: Release of Auditor-General Independent Review of Counting Errors in the General Election 2023	Excerpt provided under s16(1)(e) of the Act Some information withheld as out of scope
4.2	Oct 2024	Quarterly Report	Electoral Commission Performance Report - 1 July to 30 September 2024 (Q1 2024/25)	Excerpt provided under s16(1)(e) of the Act
N/A	Oct 2024	Annual report	Electoral Commission Annual Report 2024	This is available on the Electoral Commission website at Annual reports Elections
4.3	19.11.2024	Briefing to Minister	EC24-006 Topics that may be raised in 3 December Annual Review hearing	Excerpt provided under s16(1)(e) of the Act Some information withheld as out of scope
4.4	05.12.2024	Briefing to Minister	EC24-007 Future proofing the electoral system	Excerpt provided under s16(1)(e) of the Act Some information withheld as out of scope
4.5	Jan 2025	Quarterly Report	Electoral Commission Performance Report - 1 October to 31 December 2024 (Q2 2024/25)	Excerpt provided under s16(1)(e) of the Act
4.6	27.02.2025	Briefing to Minister	EC25-001 Electoral system quality assurance improvements	Some information withheld under s9(2)(a) Some information withheld as out of scope
N/A	27.02.2025	Appendix to 4.6	EC25-001 Appendix 1: PwC report	This is available on the Electoral Commission website at https://elections.nz/assets/OAG-2025-update/Electoral-Commission-Enrolment-and-Results-QA-FINAL_Redacted.pdf
4.7	27.02.2025	Appendix to 4.6	EC25-001 Appendix 2: Modernisation and integrity improvements	Released in full

#	Date	Document Type	Title	Decision on release
N/A	28.02.2025	Submission	Responses to the 2023/24 Annual Review post hearing questions from the Justice Committee [specifically Q225]	This is available at Electoral Commission (Responses to written questions 208-253) - New Zealand Parliament
4.8	April 2025	Quarterly Report	Electoral Commission Performance Report - 1 Jan 2025 - 31 March 2025 (Q3 2024/25)	Excerpt provided under s16(1)(e) of the Act
4.9	July 2025	Quarterly Report	Electoral Commission Performance Report - 1 April - 30 June 2025 (Q4 2024/25)	Excerpt provided under s16(1)(e) of the Act
4.10	24.07.2025	Briefing to Minister	EC25-003 Options for election technologies in 2026	Excerpt provided under s16(1)(e) of the Act Some information withheld as out of scope
4.11	Oct 2025	Quarterly Report	Electoral Commission Quarterly Performance Report - 1 July to 30 September 2025 (Q1 2025/26)	Excerpt provided under s16(1)(e) of the Act Some information withheld as out of scope
N/A	Oct 2025	Annual Report	Electoral Commission Annual Report 2025	This is available on the Electoral Commission website at Annual reports Elections
4.12	Jan 2026	Quarterly Report	Electoral Commission Quarterly Performance Report - 1 October to 31 December 2025 (Q2 2025/26)	Excerpt provided under s16(1)(e) of the Act Some information withheld as out of scope

Part 5: Any internal risk assessments, assurance reports, or readiness reviews prepared since 2023 that relate to:

- vote counting and quality assurance controls
- election workforce capability and contingencies
- hardware and IT system fitness for purpose
- election [delivery] risk identification and management

#	Date	Document Type	Title	Decision on release
N/A	26.03.2025	Report	Electoral Commission Internal Audit Report (PwC Report)	This is available on the Electoral Commission website at https://elections.nz/assets/OAG-2025-update/Electoral-Commission-Enrolment-and-Results-QA-FINAL_Redacted.pdf
N/A	17.07.2025	Report	08 Services to Voters: Voting Place Test Exit Report v1.0	Refer to 6.2
5.1	14.08.2025	EC Board paper	25.08-01b Quarterly Strategic Profile Review	Some information withheld as out of scope
5.2	14.08.2025	Appendix to 5.1	25.08-01b Appendix A: Draft Strategic Profile July 2025	Excerpt provided under s16(1)(e) of the Act Some information withheld as out of scope
N/A	14.08.2025	Briefing to Programme Board	04 Headquarters Test Exit Report	Refer to 6.3
5.3	16.09.2025	Minutes	11 EC Board General Meeting Minutes 16 Sept 2025	Excerpt provided under s16(1)(e) of the Act Some information withheld under s9(2)(a) Some information withheld as out of scope
5.4	25.09.2025	Briefing to Programme Board	04. Managing enrolment processing after roll deadline for the General Election	Some information withheld under s9(2)(a) Some information withheld as out of scope
N/A	20.11.2025	Briefing to Programme Board	02. Temporary Enrolment Roles and Structure for Māori Electoral Option and General Election 2026	Refer to 1.36
5.5	09.12.2025	Briefing to Programme Board	Security Assurance C&A [Certification & Accreditation] schedule and PIA [Privacy Impact Assessment] process integration	Some information withheld under s9(2)(a)

#	Date	Document Type	Title	Decision on release
5.6	09.12.2025	Appendix to 5.5	App A: C & A [Certification & Accreditation] Schedule	Some information withheld under s9(2)(a) Some information withheld under s6(c) and s9(2)(k)
N/A	10.12.2025	EC Board paper	25.12-01 Quarterly Assurance report	Refer to 1.37
N/A	29.01.2026	Briefing to Programme Board	05 Simulation 1 Test Exit Report (Version 0.1)	Refer to 6.6

Part 6: Any documents prepared since 2023 assessing whether election systems and processes are ready for the 2026 General Election.

#	Date	Document Type	Title	Decision on release
6.1	17.06.2025	Briefing to Programme Board	06 Post Election HQ Test Plan	Some information withheld under s9(2)(a) Some information withheld as out of scope
6.2	17.07.2025	Report	08 Services to Voters: Voting Place Test Exit Report v1.0	Some information withheld under s9(2)(a)
6.3	14.08.2025	Briefing to Programme Board	04 Headquarters Test Exit Report	Some information withheld under s9(2)(a) Some information withheld as out of scope
6.4	26.08.2025	Briefing to ELT	Modelling the impacts of change	Released in full
6.5	10.12.2025	EC Board paper	25.12-04 Planning for the future with forecasting & modelling	Released in full
6.6	29.01.2026	Briefing to Programme Board	05 Simulation 1 Test Exit Report (Version 0.1)	Some information withheld under s9(2)(a)