

**From:** [Support](#)  
**To:** [L & P Enquiries](#)  
**Subject:** [Enquiry Subject] Complaint: Manurewa Marae  
**Date:** Wednesday, 4 October 2023 7:45:05 am  
**Attachments:** [IMG-20231003-WA0013.jpg](#)

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**Electoral Commission Cyber Security Warning:** This email originated from outside of the Commission. Please take extra care when clicking links or opening attachments. When in doubt, contact the IT Service Desk.

Hi Legal Team,

Here is an enquiry from [REDACTED]

It was CC'd to: Angel Vargas [REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]

Date: Tue, Oct 3, 2023 at 5:02 pm

Kia ora Angel,

Please see attached. The Manurewa marae voting booth is offering the first 300 voters a free hangi - each day.

Can you please address this issue urgently and ensure that there is no treating taking place at this booth.

I would appreciate being kept updated on what action has been taken.

Note, this is our second complaint regarding this booth.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

**From:** [Jenny Marshall](#)  
**To:** [Natalie \[REDACTED\]](#) [Police Compliance](#); [Kristina Temel](#); [Dean \[REDACTED\]](#)  
**Subject:** Formal Complaint  
**Date:** Wednesday, 11 October 2023 4:02:35 pm  
**Attachments:** [Colour logo-01-6 copy-2 copy.jpg](#)  
[PastedGraphic-2.tiff](#)

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**Electoral Commission Cyber Security Warning:** This email originated from outside of the Commission. Please take extra care when clicking links or opening attachments. When in doubt, contact the IT Service Desk.

Dear Electoral Commission

We would like to raise a formal complaint against the Electoral Commission for the undemocratic manner in which you are conducting this general election.

We would also like to raise charges through the Police against Te Pāti Māori.

Our objection is to the fact when voters are raising genuine concerns with the Electoral Commission about political parties treating and campaigning in proximity to polling booths, the Electoral Commission is not taking sufficient steps to prosecute the party concerned.

Freedoms NZ is aware of multiple complaints from members of the public raised with the Electoral Commission against Te Pāti Māori since advance voting opened. Is the EC scared of Māori or something as to why no action is being taken? This is undemocratic, especially when many others campaigning are also Māori.

#### **Treating:**

Multiple complaints have been raised about Te Pāti Māori treating voters at the polling booth located at the Manurewa Marae, where they clearly state that once voters have voted for 'Te Pāti Māori' they can walk a few metres to receive a free hangi, free ice cream, free donuts, free potae, and enjoy free Karaoke and a DJ. See this promotional post here: [https://www.tiktok.com/@kalinapapalii436/video/7286255335092899090?\\_r=1&\\_t=8gIxTM4yQgK](https://www.tiktok.com/@kalinapapalii436/video/7286255335092899090?_r=1&_t=8gIxTM4yQgK)



#### **Polling Booth - Manukau Mall**

Today, the Te Pāti Māori candidate for Tāmaki Makaurau has posted a live Facebook video showing Te Pāti Māori singing waiata next to the polling booth located in the food court at Manukau's Westfield Mall. See here: <https://www.facebook.com/takutaikemp/videos/251564444115170/?mibextid=zDhOQc>

We have had reports from voters saying they felt incredibly intimidated and pressured when trying to cast their vote. They also felt like they were being 'watched over from above' as they tried to cast an anonymous vote. This surely can not be legal, and why have the EC and Police not already shut this down?

Encouraging Māori voters to vote with Kaupapa Māori polling booths and the like, can not be in favour of any one Māori-aligned party, nor can it be at the expense of true democracy.

#### **Census Data Violation:**

Previous employees of Manurewa Marae have reported illegal actions by Manurewa

Marae who were commissioned to collect data for the Census. When collecting census data, Te Pāti Māori supporters took a copy of the census form data for their political party database. They also signed up non-voters and retained this data as well. They encouraged all Māori they engaged with for the purposes of the census, to vote Te Pāti Māori. Te Pāti Māori also directed Census funding towards their political parties' promotional activities. The EC have failed to act on any of these reports from the general public and they've now raised these concerns with us.

I expect a response from EC and the Police before the close of business today please to ensure that this type of illegal activity is shut down today, and I also expect Te Pāti Māori's activity to date to be heavily prosecuted. We would also like to see Takutai Trash Kemp disqualified from this election.

Inaction by EC and the Police in a strong and immediate manner will leave us with no choice but to take this matter public on Freedoms NZ and Brian Tamaki's social media channels and also to mainstream media.

Kind Regards

**Jenny Marshall**

Party Secretary

Freedoms New Zealand

Mobile: [REDACTED]



*The content of this email is confidential and intended for the recipient specified in message only. It is strictly forbidden to share any part of this message with any third party, without a written consent of the sender. If you received this message by mistake, please reply to this message and follow with its deletion so that we can ensure such a mistake does not occur in the future.*

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Kristina Temel](#)  
**Cc:** [Natalie \[REDACTED\]](#) [Dean \[REDACTED\]](#) [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Complaint: Manurewa marae  
**Date:** Wednesday, 1 November 2023 10:42:48 am

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**Electoral Commission Cyber Security Warning:** This email originated from outside of the Commission. Please take extra care when clicking links or opening attachments. When in doubt, contact the IT Service Desk.

Kia ora Kristina,

I write to complain about activity that took place near the polling place at the Manurewa Marae during the advance vote period. Specifically, I am concerned that the actions of some marae staff were inappropriately partisan while hosting and promoting a non-partisan polling place, while other actions by those staff amount to treating, which is a corrupt practice under the Electoral Act. The possibility of treating is especially serious.

I understand the marae's staff are employed by Tarsh Kemp, who is both the CEO of the Manurewa marae and the Te Pāti Māori candidate for Tamaki Makaurau. Ms Kemp's two positions create a very difficult conflict of interest between her role hosting a non-partisan booth location on the one hand, and her role seeking votes in the election on the other. I don't think that conflict was appropriately managed.

I have seen evidence of inappropriate behaviour in several Facebook Live videos that were broadcast by the Manurewa Marae during the advance voting period. Those videos remain publicly available on [the marae's Facebook page](#), but if the links become inactive for some reason I have retained copies that I can send to the Commission.

I submit that the information outlined below shows:

- a clear and unsolvable conflict of interest by the Manurewa Marae hosting a polling place, at the same time as its CEO and staff electioneer for a particular candidate and party while promoting that polling place;
- a case of an advertisement being published without a promotor statement (contrary to s204F of the Electoral Act);
- cases of treating (contrary to s217 of the Electoral Act).

Evidence of inappropriate behaviour is contained in the following videos, among others:

[Facebook live 2 October, 10:35am](#)

Within the first 1:30 of this video, the marae:

- Shares non-incidentual footage of Tarsh Kemp's campaign vehicle, branded in Te Pāti Māori livery;
- Says the marae is holding an event that day that involves free hangi, free ice cream, free donuts, and free coffee among other things; and

Also invites people to vote at the marae's polling booth that day.

This promotional video is problematic because (1) it displays an election advertisement for Tarsh Kent and Te Pāti Māori without ever displaying an authorisation statement, (2) it includes partisan material while purportedly promoting a non-partisan polling booth the marae is hosting, and (3) it gives viewers the impression that if they vote in the election at the marae they'll be rewarded with free food and drink, which is treating.

More generally, we note that the marae appears to have held a series of community events featuring free goods and services that are specifically timed to coincide with the days when the polling place was open. Scanning the marae's Facebook page indicates no such pattern of events either before or after the voting period. This is further contextual evidence that the events and their associated free activities are designed to induce people to vote.

#### [Facebook live 2 October, 12:04pm](#)

This video further advertises the free items people can receive when they come and vote, which is treating.

In addition, at around 6:25 the host interviews the Te Pāti Māori candidate during a purportedly non-partisan video promoting voting in the election. Tarsh Kent must have known she had a deep conflict of interest between her role as the CEO of an organisation hosting a non-partisan polling booth, and her role as a candidate in that same election. Yet she allowed herself to be interviewed anyway. That's deeply inappropriate.

#### [Facebook live October 3, 11:11am](#)

At around 2:15, the host encourages people to vote for Te Pāti Māori while promoting a polling booth location. The conversation is:

Person 1: "Patai. Someone asked 'We should vote for who?'"

Person 2: "Whanau, it's all up to you. It's not our job to tell you who to vote for. But... there's only one party that will look after us Māori people. Anyway, it's not about who you vote for, whanau. It's just about having your say, and voting. Just don't vote for National or ACT."

Then, at around 2:55 in this video, a marae staff member describes exactly how getting free stuff at the marae is conditional on people having voted in the election. The conversation is:

Person 2: "Wow - look at this, whanau. Free activations, sir. What does that mean?"

Person 3: "With a free activation we have a voting station down at the pond. I believe you've already shown that. After that they'll be given a ticket to collect their hangi right here. And there's activation going on down here. You've got the donut waka. You've got the hot chocolate, hot coffee.

Person 2: "What else is here?"

Person 3: "You've got Lucy's ice cream. We've even got karaoke and performances, kapa haka apparently. And smoothies. Smoothies! Hidden

treasures!"

Under the ticketing system set up by the marae, people only receive the free things on offer at the marae if they provide a ticket that proves they voted in the election. This last video is, in my view, very clear evidence of treating on the part of the marae.

I submit that the actions of marae staff satisfy the requirements of s217(a) of the Electoral Act by those staff corruptly, during an election, providing food and drink for the purpose of corruptly influencing people to vote.

There are two instances of the word 'corruptly' in the offence. The first is in 217(2) related to the actions of the staff, and the second in subsection 217(2)(a) relating to the influence on the voter.

While 'corruptly' isn't defined within the Electoral Act, I believe using the general definitions of the word, the staff are acting corruptly by dishonestly by using their position to gain an advantage, and that it is clear from the 'ticketing system' that electors are being corruptly influenced to vote by the marae staff by being bribed with food and drink – which is advertised that they can only receive if they can prove they have voted.

I further believe that the exception in s217(5) cannot apply in this case.

Worse, this video and others also make it clear that the marae staff believe people should vote for Te Pāti Māori (in their view, the "one party that will look after us Māori people") and not for alternative parties (specifically National and Act), and implies people will be even more welcome to vote at the marae if they agree with that belief.

I also submit that s217(2)(b) has also been breached. I believe the elements of this are satisfied by:

- <!--[if !supportLists]-->• <!--[endif]-->the treating mechanism as outlined above;
- <!--[if !supportLists]-->• <!--[endif]-->the food, drink and entertainment being funded by the marae, of which Ms Kemp is the CEO (and therefore has financial authority of);
- <!--[if !supportLists]-->• <!--[endif]-->that the Ms Kemp and marae staff promoted Te Pāti Māori and Ms Kemp as its Tāmaki Makaurau candidate (even if not explicitly, via clear inference); and
- <!--[if !supportLists]-->• <!--[endif]-->that these actions were taken for the purpose of procuring Ms Kemp's election.

In [a later Facebook post](#), marae staff celebrate the "thousands who showed up to our 12 Activations", which indicates there was actual treating that took place.

Given this pattern of behaviour, it is likely that there are likely other instances of inappropriate and/or unlawful behaviour in the remaining Facebook live videos the marae posted during the advance vote period.

My submission is that the information outlined shows clear, and potentially criminal, breaches of the Electoral Act. Because these inducements to vote appear to have been paid for by the Manurewa marae, my belief is that the breaches was committed by whoever has overall authority over the marae's finances.

I therefore request that the Electoral Commission investigate these serious potential offences.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]



[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]



**From:** [Karl Le Quesne](#)  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [Kristina Temel](#); [Natalie \[REDACTED\]](#); [Dean \[REDACTED\]](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Further information, and a request, regarding Tamaki Makaurau  
**Date:** Wednesday, 8 November 2023 2:50:34 pm  
**Attachments:** [image001.jpg](#)  
[image002.png](#)

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Kia ora [REDACTED]

We will include this additional information into our inquiries into the matters you have raised.

Ngā mihi

Karl Le Quesne

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 8, 2023 2:47 PM  
**To:** Karl Le Quesne <[REDACTED]@elections.govt.nz>  
**Cc:** Kristina Temel <[REDACTED]@elections.govt.nz>; Natalie [REDACTED]  
<[REDACTED]@elections.govt.nz>; Dean [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@elections.govt.nz>  
**Subject:** Further information, and a request, regarding Tamaki Makaurau

You don't often get email from [REDACTED] [Learn why this is important](#)

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Kia ora Karl,

I'm writing regarding the complaint I made on 1 November regarding treating at the Manurewa marae. I wish to provide further information to the Commission in its consideration of that complaint; bring your attention to an additional irregularity we'd like the Commission to consider; and make a request as to the timing of the Commission's decision on whether or not to pass these complaints to the police.

#### Additional information

1. I note some of the Manurewa marae's Facebook live videos appear to have been removed from their Facebook page as at today. I don't know why that might have happened. I understand the Commission may already have downloaded copies of those videos, but we also have copies if needed.



2. Some of the marae's Facebook content, however, has not been deleted as yet. I'd like to bring the Commission's attention to further evidence suggesting the purpose of Manurewa marae's activity was to treat voters:

[In a Facebook Live video on 13 October](#), the marae said:

- It was up to "Activation 11" in a programme of 12 activations (the last one to take place on 14 October, which included a free concert and 1,000 free hangi among other things at the marae)
  - In our view, the fact that this programme was titled as "activations" indicates clearly the purpose of the programme, namely to "activate" people who might not otherwise be active into voting, using the lure of free things to encourage them. Indeed, in this video the free offerings are collectively referred to as the "activations" which even more clearly indicates their purpose. This is important because the marae's intent is an important element of the treating offence.
  - The number and timing of the activations also closely coincide with the period where voting was open with the election, which is a further indication of the programme's intent.
  - The advertising of "activation 12" on election day, which involves 1,000 free hangi and a free concert at a polling booth location, alongside an encouragement to vote at that polling booth, is also treating.

[In a Facebook post on 2 October](#), the marae says:

Come on down to the Marae apōpō (tomorrow) for our RANGATAHI ACTIVATION. A packed full day of Magic and greatness.

We have HIP HOP CLASSES, KARAOKE and much more. Our VOTING station is also open for our whānau over 18 who need to VOTE.

Happening tomorrow Tuesday 3 October from 10AM till 4PM at our Marae.

!!!!!! HANGI, COFFEE, ICE CREAM, HOT DONUTS AND HAIRCUTS.

Share with your whānau and come on down!!!

#ManurewaMarae #Rangatahi #Voting

- This post shows that the hours when free things are available at the marae during the 3 October "Activation" are timed to precisely coincide with the hours when the polling booth at the marae was open. Further, the post contains a clear link between casting a ballot and obtaining free hip hop classes, karaoke, hangi, coffee, ice cream, donuts, and haircuts, which is treating.
  - This link between voting and freebies is, of course, made even more explicit in the

Facebook Live video the following morning - which I shared with the Commission previously - that outlined a ticketing system the marae used to provide free items specifically for people who cast a ballot at the polling booth located at the marae.

3. Now that the final results have been declared, it is clear that the scale of the potential treating (which the marae itself says runs to thousands of people) is significant enough to affect the election result, where the final margin is four votes. This scale, relative to the margin in the election, makes it even more imperative that this treating is investigated by police.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]





[Redacted text block]

- [Redacted list item]
- [Redacted list item]

- [Redacted list item]
- [Redacted list item]

- o [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Timing of Electoral Commission decisions

As you know, [REDACTED] faces a deadline of 1 December to file any electoral petition in relation to Tamaki Makaurau. It would be deeply unjust if that deadline were to pass without all parties knowing the Commission's decision on whether or not to forward these complaints to the police, as that decision may be relevant to any electoral petition.

Our firm view is that it is the responsibility of state agencies, rather than other parties, to pursue potentially corrupt practices in elections, and we ask that the Commission address that responsibility in a timely fashion. We therefore request that the Commission expedite its decision on these matters, and release that decision well in advance of the legal deadline of 1 December for filing any electoral petitions. I also request an update on the Commission's intentions about when it will make a decision, so I can pass that information on to decision-makers within [REDACTED]

Best regards,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]



[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]



[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

**From:** [Support](#)  
**To:** [L & P Enquiries](#)  
**Subject:** [Enquiry Subject] Voting enquiry from [REDACTED]  
**Date:** Thursday, 9 November 2023 3:03:42 pm

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Hi Legal Team,

Here is an enquiry from [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

It was CC'd to:

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Date:** Thu, Nov 9, 2023 at 2:57 pm

**Name:** [REDACTED]

**Email:** [REDACTED]

**From site:** elections.nz

**Subject:** Voting

**Type:** Complaint

**Message:**

Kia ora, After reading the NZ Herald article today "Electoral Commission polling place decisions under fire amidst recount and voting irregularities at Manurewa Marae" I wish to add a complaint to this kāupapa. My wife and I chose to fulfil our democratic duty by voting (early) at Manurewa Marae, Manurewa. We arrived on Saturday 7th October mid-morning and were welcomed with music, free food, free Te Pāti Māori beanie's and a number of Te Pāti Māori flags and banners. We were then told once we voted, we would be given a ticket to then present and receive ONE free hot hangi. I thought to myself, is this bias or what! I did not feel it was pono to the neutral and unbiased environment which should exist at an authorised Polling Booth. While it was an early vote which meant there were many political banners still visible, my wife and I saw nothing but 'Māori Party' insignia around the Marae. I knew Kemp was the CEO of Manurewa Marae, and the candidate for Tāmaki Makaurau. This is not right. I would not normally make a complaint, but this is too important not to. Ngā mihi



**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [OIA Enquiries](#)  
**Subject:** Manurewa Marae voting booth. OIA Request  
**Date:** Saturday, 11 November 2023 2:11:41 pm

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You don't often get email from [REDACTED]. [Learn why this is important](#)

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## I request answers to the following questions under the OIA.

1. Was Takutai Moana Kemp at the Manurewa Marae at any time during Election day? If so, how long was she there and was she mixing and talking with people who had come there to cast their votes or partake in the free food and drinks?
- 2.
2. Were any te Party Maori officials employed or involved in any way in the running of this booth other than as an official scrutineers and if so who were they and what role did they play?

My name is [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Regards [REDACTED]

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows

**From:** [Karl Le Quesne](#)  
**To:** [Jenny Marshall](#)  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: Formal Complaint  
**Date:** Friday, 10 November 2023 4:46:21 pm  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)  
[image002.jpg](#)  
[image003.png](#)

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Greetings Jenny

We have received a number of complaints, including your complaint, that we have already responded to confirming that we had contacted the Marae to seek clarification and had concluded that we would be taking no further action.

My response to Lance Norman reflects that we are not currently enquiring into any complaints in relation to Te Pāti Māori activity at Manurewa Marae.

I hope that clarifies my response.

Regards

Karl Le Quesne

**Karl Le Quesne** (He/Him) | Chief Electoral Officer  
**Electoral Commission | Te Kaitiaki Take Kōwhiri**  
PO Box 3220 | 34-42 Manners Street | Wellington  
[vote.nz](#) | [elections.nz](#)



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**From:** Jenny Marshall <[REDACTED]@freedomsnz.org.nz>  
**Sent:** Friday, November 10, 2023 12:36 PM  
**To:** Karl Le Quesne <[REDACTED]@elections.govt.nz>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@nzme.co.nz>  
**Cc:** Brian Tamaki <[REDACTED]@freedomsnz.org.nz>; Natalie [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@elections.govt.nz>; Police Compliance [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@elections.govt.nz>; Kristina Temel <[REDACTED]@elections.govt.nz>; Dean [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@elections.govt.nz>; Sue Grey <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>  
**Subject:** Fwd: Formal Complaint

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Hi Karl & [REDACTED]

I have just read this NZ Herald article written.

<https://www.nzherald.co.nz/kahu/te-pati-maori-not-under-investigation-over-manurewa-marae-polling-booth/F2QDXEKVXBFW5EJY5EFRAGGYL4/>

This is an absolute fabrication on behalf of the Electoral Commission to say "Kia Ora Lance. We have not had any complaints about Te Pāti Māori in relation to the marae. Ngā mihi. Karl Le Quesne."

There have been multiple complaints raised with the Electoral Commission about the conduct of Te Pāti Māori at the Manurewa Marae, including my complaint below.

I would like to see a formal apology publicly released by Karl Le Quesne along with an admittance that the truth was not told.

All of this is causing me to have no faith in the Electoral Commission.

Kind Regards

**Jenny Marshall**

Party Secretary

Freedoms New Zealand

Mobile: [REDACTED]



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Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Jenny Marshall <[REDACTED]@freedomsnz.org.nz>

**Subject:** Formal Complaint

**Date:** 11 October 2023 at 4:02:15 PM NZDT

**To:** Natalie [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@elections.govt.nz>, Kristina Temel [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@elections.govt.nz>, Dean [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@elections.govt.nz>

Dear Electoral Commission

We would like to raise a formal complaint against the Electoral Commission for the undemocratic manner in which you are conducting this general election.

We would also like to raise charges through the Police against Te Pāti Māori.

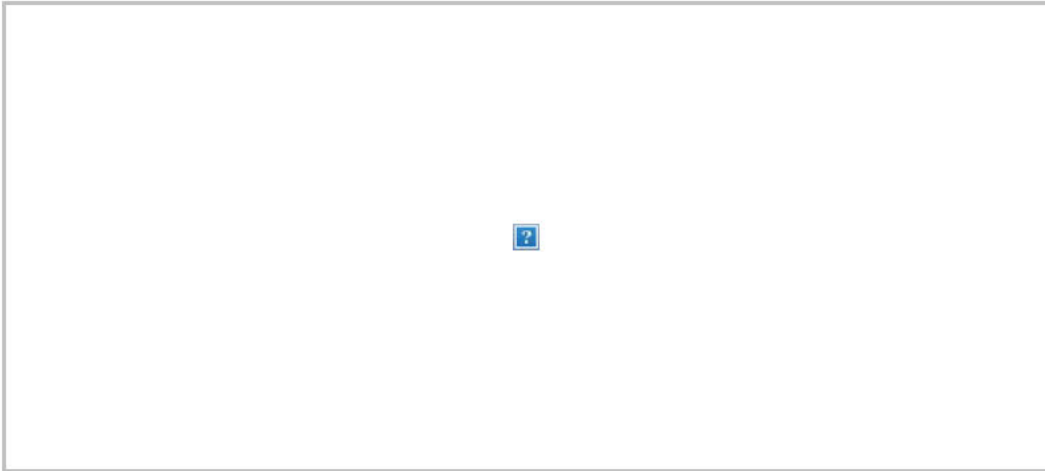
Our objection is to the fact when voters are raising genuine concerns with the Electoral Commission about political parties treating and campaigning in proximity to polling booths, the Electoral Commission is not taking sufficient steps to prosecute the party concerned.

Freedoms NZ is aware of multiple complaints from members of the public raised with the Electoral Commission against Te Pāti Māori since advance voting opened. Is the EC scared of Māori or something as to why no action is being taken? This is undemocratic, especially when many others campaigning are also Māori.

**Treating:**

Multiple complaints have been raised about Te Pāti Māori treating voters at the polling booth located at the Manurewa Marae, where they clearly state that once voters have voted for 'Te Pāti Māori' they can walk a few metres to receive a free hangi, free ice cream, free donuts, free potae, and enjoy free Karaoke and a DJ. See this promotional post

here: [https://www.tiktok.com/@kalinapapalii436/video/7286255335092899090?\\_r=1&\\_t=8glxTM4yQgK](https://www.tiktok.com/@kalinapapalii436/video/7286255335092899090?_r=1&_t=8glxTM4yQgK)



**Polling Booth - Manukau Mall**

Today, the Te Pāti Māori candidate for Tāmaki Makaurau has posted a live Facebook video showing Te Pāti Māori singing waiata next to the polling booth located in the food court at Manukau’s Westfield Mall. See here: <https://www.facebook.com/takutaikemp/videos/251564444115170/?mibextid=zDhQQc>

We have had reports from voters saying they felt incredibly intimidated and pressured when trying to cast their vote. They also felt like they were being ‘watched over from above’ as they tried to cast an anonymous vote. This surely can not be legal, and why have the EC and Police not already shut this down?

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**Census Data Violation:**

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I expect a response from EC and the Police before the close of business today please to ensure that this type of illegal activity is shut down today, and I also expect Te Pāti Māori’s activity to date to be heavily prosecuted. We would also like to see Takutai Trash Kemp disqualified from this election.

Inaction by EC and the Police in a strong and immediate manner will leave us with no choice but to take this matter public on Freedoms NZ and Brian Tamaki’s social media channels and also to mainstream media.

Kind Regards

**Jenny Marshall**  
Party Secretary  
Freedoms New Zealand  
Mobile: [REDACTED]



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**From:** [Support](#)  
**To:** [L & P Enquiries](#)  
**Subject:** [Enquiry Subject] Parties and candidates enquiry from [REDACTED]  
**Date:** Tuesday, 21 November 2023 2:00:18 pm

---

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Hi Legal Team,

Here is an enquiry from [REDACTED] ([REDACTED]).

It was CC'd to:

**From:** Toni [REDACTED]  
**Date:** Tue, Nov 21, 2023 at 1:59 pm  
assigned to L&P - Tim

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Date:** Tue, Nov 21, 2023 at 1:40 pm

**Name:** [REDACTED]  
**Email:** [REDACTED]  
**From site:** vote.nz  
**Subject:** Parties and candidates  
**Type:** Complaint

**Message:**

Dear Sir/Madam Dodgy goings-on in connection with Te Pati Mokomai candidate in connection with pork barrel politicking at the Manurewa Marae. 1. Be CEO of marae. 2. Play Te Pati Mokomai campaign song. 3. Offer Kai to voters. 4. Win electorate. A clear breach of electoral rules. Not to mention the new taxpayer-funded roof on the main building and another building recently completed. The election bribery started two weeks before election day "Manurewa Marae .. it's all there on the 'Manurewa Marae' FB page .. 4 October · KAPA HAKA EXTRAVAGANZA Happening tomorrow from 10am - 7pm! Bring your entire whānau down for a fun day of Karaoke, Kapa Haka, Māori games and much more. Our Manaakitanga team are also on-site ready to serve you up, Coffee , Donuts , Ice Cream and smoothies . Also, our amazing nurses are on-site doing whānau health checks and immunisations. Lastly, our VOTING STATION is open for you and your whānau over 18 to cast your VOTE!" then on election day it ramped up with 1000 hangi meals given out .. "Manurewa Marae 13 October · Manurewa Marae are PROUD to present "PROUD TO BE REWA" "PROUD TO BE MĀORI" WHĀNAU DAY!!!!!! Happening tomorrow from 9am - 6pm at Manurewa Marae. Come on down for a day of amazing entertainment, FREE Donuts, Coffee, Ice Cream, Smoothies and 1000 HANGI. This is a day dedicated to you our amazing and POWERFUL whānau of MANUREWA. Celebrating the importance of Whānau, Hapori and Manaaki. It's also the LAST DAY for you and your whānau 18+ to have your say and cast your VOTE at our VOTING STATION. So don't miss out e te whānau, come down and celebrate "PROUD TO BE REWA" & "PROUD TO BE MĀORI" WHĀNAU DAY." Please investigate and report back. Regards [REDACTED]



--

Toni | Customer Services | Electoral Commission | Te Kaitiaki Take Kōwhiri | PO Box 190 | Wellington  
| 6140 | Phone 0800 36 76 56

**From:** [L & P Enquiries](#)  
**To:** [REDACTED]@vision.org.nz  
**Subject:** Manurewa Marae  
**Date:** Thursday, 23 November 2023 4:20:00 pm  
**Attachments:** [image002.jpg](#)  
[image003.png](#)

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Kia ora [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email of 13 November 2023.

The Manurewa Marae was identified along with other local marae including Papakura, Ruapōtaka, and Ōrākei Marae as a potential venue that members of the surrounding community would readily vote in. It was noted that it had recently offered COVID-19 vaccinations and opportunities to participate in the Census. It is used by the Ministry of Social Development to promote employment opportunities. It is also used as a community hub by virtue of its medical services and food bank.

The marae was advertised as a voting place issuing votes for the Manurewa general electorate and the Tāmaki Makaurau Māori electorate and like all voting places, it also issued special votes for all general and Māori electorates across the country.

We were aware of the candidate's involvement at the marae. Prior to agreeing to use the venue we agreed that the candidate would not enter the voting place other than to vote herself. We were provided an alternative designated contact person that we made the arrangements with. We also ensured that the marae personnel were aware of the rules regarding election advertising. Electoral Commission staff made sure that the 10 metre advance voting place buffer zone and the election day rules were strictly being observed with respect to the voting place.

The Electoral Commission was responsible for appointing and training the voting place staff. We set clear expectations that they must work in a way that supports a free and fair election. We have a code of conduct that sets that out, including being politically neutral.

On 3 October, we were first made aware of a social media post by the Manurewa Marae promoting a free hangi after people voted. The Electorate Manager contacted the marae contact person, on 4 October, to make it clear that the hangi (or any other incentive) cannot be tied to having voted but should be available to everyone whether they have voted or not. They were asked to amend their posts to reflect this. We received confirmation from our contact at the marae that they were providing kai to anyone who came to the voting place, and this was not conditional on whether or not they had voted. When the Electoral Commission's Acting Chair and Deputy Chief Executive Operations visited the marae on 5 October 2023, this is what they also observed.

On 9 October, we received your complaint, that was also copied to Police, regarding a social media post by an individual which linked voting for Te Pāti Māori to receiving kai at the Manurewa Marae. The Electorate Manager contacted the marae again to check. The marae confirmed again that they were providing kai to anyone who came to the marae, and this was not conditional on whether they had voted or not and not linked to voting for any particular party.

Under [section 217](#) of the Electoral Act, anyone who gives or provides food, drink, entertainment or provision is liable for prosecution for the corrupt practice of treating, if done "for the purpose of corruptly" influencing that person to, generally put, alter their voting behaviour or procure the defendant's election.

Although the ambit is broad, the threshold for establishing treating is also high - a corrupt intention is required. The Courts have previously held that the offence of "treating" requires an intention on the part of the person treating to influence the votes of the persons treated.

In this case, it appears that the marae was publicly offering kai and entertainment alongside a whole range of organised marae activities including whanau day, kapa haka day, health checks, employment expo, and the Electoral Commission's voting place.

It appears that food was being made generally available without reference to voting or voting for Te Pāti Māori or its candidate. Nor was it being accompanied by the giving out of campaign material. There did not appear to be any overt campaigning associated with the manaakitanga.

Based on the information we have, we do not consider that this would meet the high test for treating and would not refer the matter to Police.

Thank you for your further follow-up.

Ngā mihi

Kristina Temel  
Electoral Commission

---

**From:** [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@vision.org.nz>  
**Sent:** Monday, November 13, 2023 6:30 PM  
**To:** Dean [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@elections.govt.nz>  
**Cc:** Karl Le Quesne <[REDACTED]@elections.govt.nz>; Kristina Temel [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@elections.govt.nz>  
**Subject:** Re: [Enquiry Subject] Election advertising enquiry from [REDACTED]

**Electoral Commission Cyber Security Warning:** This email originated from outside of the Commission. Please take extra care when clicking links or opening attachments. When in doubt, contact the IT Service Desk.

Hi Dean,

Thank you for getting back to me, I understand you have been very busy.

However, on behalf of the Management of Vision NZ;

- I don't understand how the choice of Manurewa Marae as a voting place for this election can be justified when the CEO of the Marae was to be a candidate for the Maori Party. Would Destiny Church be able to do that? I think not.
- If the evidence submitted to the Commission does not constitute Treating, then what does?
- What is the point of having rules if threshold for breaching those rules is so high that they are rendered superfluous, and make a mockery of our democratic system.

There is ample proof that the Maori Party have used some unscrupulous methods to contest this election.

Therefore, we are depending on the Commission to uphold the integrity of our electoral system by conducting a vigorous investigation into their conduct.

Kind Regards

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]



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**From:** Dean [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@elections.govt.nz>  
**Sent:** Monday, 13 November 2023 12:28 pm  
**To:** [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@vision.org.nz>  
**Cc:** Karl Le Quesne <[REDACTED]@elections.govt.nz>; Kristina Temel [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@elections.govt.nz>  
**Subject:** RE: [Enquiry Subject] Election advertising enquiry from [REDACTED]

Kia ora [REDACTED]

Further to your telephone conversation with Karl today, I would like to apologise for not advising you of the outcome of your complaint – this was an administrative oversight by me. The email that should have sent to you is copied below.

Ngā mihi

**Dean [REDACTED] | Senior Advisor Legal | Electoral Commission | Te Kaitiaki Take Kōwhiri**

PO Box 3220 | Level 10, 34-42 Manners Street | Wellington

Phone +[REDACTED] |



### **Treating – Manurewa Marae**

The Electoral Commission works to make voting accessible to all communities and to increasing participation within communities that have lower rates of engagement in the electoral process. In selecting voting places, it engages with people in different locations, particularly where voter turnout is low, to understand which potential venues will work for different communities. Following this, a formal assessment is done of each site to ensure it meets the Commission's requirements.

The Manurewa Marae was identified as a potential venue that members of the surrounding community would readily vote in. It was noted that it had recently offered COVID-19 vaccinations, food support and opportunities to participate in the Census. In our discussions with the marae, it was mentioned that they might provide kai and or activities to create a family friendly environment around the voting place. We were clear that the opportunity to receive kai or participate in the activities must be available to anyone coming to the marae and cannot be dependent on people voting. It is not uncommon for a schools or other community organisations to host activities around voting places on this basis.

On 3 October, we were first made aware that the Manurewa Marae was making an association, via a social media post, between voting at the marae and receiving a free hangi. The Electorate Manager contacted the marae management, on the same day, to make it clear that the hangi (or any other incentive) cannot be tied to having voted but should be available to everyone whether they have voted or not. They were asked to amend their posts to reflect this. We received confirmation from our contact at the marae that they are providing kai to anyone who comes to the voting place, and this is not conditional on whether they have voted or not.

On 9 October, the Commission received Vision New Zealand's complaint regarding a social media post by an individual which linked voting for Te Pati Māori to receiving kai at the Manurewa Marae. The Electorate Manager contacted the Marae again. The Marae confirmed again that they are providing kai to anyone who comes to the voting place, and this is not conditional on whether they have voted or not and not linked to voting for any particular party.

Based on the information we have gathered and the assurances from the Manurewa Marae, we will not be taking the matter further.

---

**From:** [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@vision.org.nz>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 10, 2023 10:19 AM  
**To:** L & P Enquiries <[REDACTED]>  
**Subject:** RE: [Enquiry Subject] Election advertising enquiry from [REDACTED]

**Electoral Commission Cyber Security Warning:** This email originated from outside of the Commission. Please take extra care when clicking links or opening attachments. When in doubt, contact the IT Service Desk.

Thanks Dean, we really appreciated that.

Cheers

[REDACTED]

Sent from my Galaxy

----- Original message -----

**From:** L & P Enquiries [REDACTED]  
**Date:** 10/10/23 9:56 am (GMT+12:00)  
**To:** [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@vision.org.nz>  
**Subject:** RE: [Enquiry Subject] Election advertising enquiry from [REDACTED]

Kia ora [REDACTED]

We are looking in the matter and will be liaising with our Voting Services Team and the Manurewa electorate manager.

Ngā mihi

Dean [REDACTED] | Senior Advisor Legal | Electoral Commission | Te Kaitiaki Take Kōwhiri

PO Box 3220 | Level 10, 34-42 Manners Street | Wellington

Phone [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]@vision.org.nz ([REDACTED]@vision.org.nz).

It was CC'd to:

From: [REDACTED]@vision.org.nz

Date: Mon, Oct 9, 2023 at 9:32 pm

Name: [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]@vision.org.nz

From site: elections.nz

Subject: Election advertising

Type: Complaint

**Message:**

I would like to make a complaint about the Te Parti Maori offering treats to those voters who go to Manurewa Marae to cast their vote this week. There is also a Tik Tok advertisement promising hangi for those who vote, with a photo of Takutai Moana Natasha Kemp, the Te Parti Maori candidate for Tamaki Makaurau. Please see the evidence below. I look forward to hearing from you.



**From:** [Benjamin](#) [redacted]  
**To:** [Natalie](#) [redacted]  
**Subject:** FW: [Enquiry Subject] Voting enquiry from [redacted]  
**Date:** Monday, 4 March 2024 10:50:00 am  
**Attachments:** [image001.jpg](#)

---

Ngā mihi

**Benjamin** [redacted] ([he/him](#)) | Senior Policy Advisor | Legal and Policy  
Electoral Commission | Te Kaitiaki Take Kōwhiri  
PO Box 3220 | Level 4, 34-42 Manners Street | Wellington  
Work + [redacted] | [vote.nz](#) | [elections.nz](#)



---

**From:** L & P Enquiries  
**Sent:** Monday, February 12, 2024 3:28 PM  
**To:** [redacted]  
**Subject:** RE: [Enquiry Subject] Voting enquiry from [redacted]

Kia ora [redacted]

Thank you for your email.

Treating requires the intention of corruptly influencing their vote and is a criminal offence under section 217 of the Electoral Act 1993. In our view, the Courts have held that this a high threshold. The question of intention is an inference of fact which the Court has to draw.

In the case of this marae, to avoid any perception this activity could amount to treating we were in touch with those involved to advise the hangi should be available to everyone, whether or not they had voted. After the initial suggestion it was linked to voting, we were satisfied this was rectified and attended the venue to confirm this. The wider marae venue had other events on at the same time, and we are advised the 10 metre 'buffer zone' around the voting place was observed.

Ngā mihi

**Benjamin** [redacted] ([he/him](#)) | Senior Policy Advisor | Legal and Policy  
Electoral Commission | Te Kaitiaki Take Kōwhiri  
PO Box 3220 | Level 4, 34-42 Manners Street | Wellington  
Work + [redacted] | [vote.nz](#) | [elections.nz](#)



**From:** [redacted]  
**Date:** Mon, Feb 12, 2024 at 2:59 am

**Name:** [REDACTED]

**Email:** [REDACTED]

**From site:** elections.nz

**Subject:** Voting

**Type:** Complaint

**Message:**

Why is this not sealed with more seriously? [https://www.thepost.co.nz/politics/350170085/deleted-social-media-posts-raise-further-questions-about-treating-marae-polling?](https://www.thepost.co.nz/politics/350170085/deleted-social-media-posts-raise-further-questions-about-treating-marae-polling?fbclid=IwAR10VpplnaOM5qaicWvUe18fOgtwbBA0m4hfpdMxMrRxHXKHnMuOZX8Tm-k)

Deleted social media videos raise fresh questions about allegations of 'treating' voters to free food at a marae polling booth linked to a Te Pāti Māori MP. Late last year, it emerged concerns were raised about the use of Manurewa Marae as a polling booth during October's general election. New Tāmaki Makaurau MP Takutai Tarsh Kemp, who beat incumbent Labour MP Peeni Henare by just 42 votes, was the marae's chief executive. It was the tightest race in the country and the surprise upset led to a recount. Shortly after election day, complaints about 'treating' — where food, goods or other services are offered to influence voters — emerged. Treating is an offence under electoral law. The Electoral Commission chose not to refer the matter to police. The agency says the threshold for prosecution is high, and would require proving an intention to influence voting. Now, the Sunday Star-Times can reveal that during the period where advance votes could be cast, the marae's social media accounts promoted a ticketing system where voters could collect free hāngī, doughnuts, hot chocolate and coffee on providing proof of voting. The first 300 voters on a given day would get freebies.

**From:** [Support](#)  
**To:** [EC Legal](#)  
**Subject:** [Enquiry Subject] Other enquiry from [REDACTED]  
**Date:** Wednesday, 5 June 2024 9:18:04 am

---

Hi Legal Team,

Here is an enquiry from [REDACTED] ([REDACTED]).

It was CC'd to:

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Date:** Wed, Jun 5, 2024 at 12:07 am  
**Name:** [REDACTED]  
**Email:** [REDACTED]  
**From site:** elections.nz  
**Subject:** Other  
**Type:** Complaint

**Message:**

I would like to know if the Electoral Commission is investigating the conduct of Te Pati Maori for the inducements it was giving out at the Manurewa Marae? I know it is OK to give to give out a snack while electioneering but giving \$100 vouchers goes far beyond that! It is mischievous of John Tamahere to try to re-label it as maanaaki. Inducing people to change to the Maori roll was trying to screw the scrum for the election as there would have been Te Pati advertising (explicit or implicit) plus getting a Te Pati Maori vote in the Maori electorates gave the possibility of overhang seats - as indeed happened. What if a National candidate got associates to organise for people to change from the Maori roll to the General roll in a venue with a few National party logos around and was giving \$100 vouchers - I bet that would be investigated! Bryce Edwards has summed what has been in the media to date:  
<https://democracyproject.substack.com/p/te-pati-maoris-integrity-under-scrutiny>

**From:** [Support](#)  
**To:** [EC Legal](#)  
**Subject:** REQUEST TO INVESTIGATE POTENTIAL BREACHES OF ELECTORAL ACT 1993  
**Date:** Tuesday, 4 June 2024 3:47:35 pm  
**Attachments:** [4 June 2024 Letter to Electoral Commission.pdf](#)

---

Hi Legal Team,

Here is an enquiry from [REDACTED] ([REDACTED]).

From: [REDACTED]  
Date: Tue, Jun 4, 2024 at 3:41 pm

Refer to the attached letter. I look forward to hearing from you.

[REDACTED]

--

Bindi | Operations Support | Electoral Commission | Te Kaitiaki Take Kōwhiri

PO Box 3220, Wellington 6140

4 June 2024

Karl Le Quesne  
Chief Electoral Officer and Chief Executive  
Electoral Commission

By email: [enquiries@elections.govt.nz](mailto:enquiries@elections.govt.nz)

## REQUEST TO INVESTIGATE POTENTIAL BREACHES OF ELECTORAL ACT 1993

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Tēnā koe Karl,

- 1 I write in relation to the recent reporting in the media about the potential misuse of census data centred around a contract held by the Whānau Ora Commissioning Agency and Manurewa Marae.<sup>1</sup> As you will know, Stats NZ have already announced they are investigating the matter and a complaint has been made to the police.
- 2 There are allegations in the article concerning the offering of food, drink and vouchers by Manurewa Marae to induce electors to switch from the General electoral roll to the Māori electoral roll:

Visitors to the marae last year were also given \$100 supermarket vouchers when they completed the forms to switch rolls.

...

Throughout the year, staff say were repeatedly drilled to get marae visitors and clients to switch rolls. “The directive was continuous. Every time we had morning debriefs, it would come up.”

...

The marae staffed a dedicated desk for visitors to fill out the enrolment form, the ex-employee said. “The vocab they were told to use was basically: ‘Sign this, or you can’t get that.’

“They would say: ‘Tick that box ... to change rolls, and then we can give you your voucher’.

“To me they were using a community that was already in poverty, using the food and that so they will come in. They knew that they’d come in because they’d get vouchers and free coffee and ice-cream.

“A lot of people came. We were overrun.”

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.thepost.co.nz/politics/350293431/stats-nz-investigating-potential-misuse-maori-census-data>

3 John Tamihere, on behalf of the Whānau Ora Commissioning Agency responded to the allegations, per the article:

“It would be pretty stupid not to put both together, wouldn't it? Well, that's what occurred,” Tamihere said. “Our civic duty to our people is to alert them to both.

“When we do relationships with our people and they come to our maraes, we either provide kai or kai manaaki packaging. You call it an inducement, we call it maanaaki.

4 And also:

Tamihere also denied Te Pāti Māori leaflets were included in support packages. “Free kai, coffee and ice creams for babies were provided by the marae to maanaaki our whānau as a form of ‘treating’.

5 I am concerned by Mr Tamihere’s admission of ‘treating’.

6 I am writing to ask you to investigate this matter further in your role as chief electoral officer to ascertain if any corrupt or illegal practices have been committed under the Electoral Act 1993 (the **Act**) in the lead up to the 2023 General Election, especially either bribery or treating.

7 We note these matters are new and additional to the previous issues raised with the Commission in relation to Manurewa Marae.<sup>2</sup>

#### **Tāmaki Makaurau Māori electorate - 2023 General Election**

8 This is especially important given the events described, centred around Manurewa Marae, took place in the Tāmaki Makaurau Māori electorate.

9 Takutai Tarsh Kemp was the chief executive of Manurewa Marae at the time the alleged inducements occurred and only stood down from this role after winning the Tāmaki Makaurau Māori electorate in the 2023 General Election post 3 November 2023 when the official results were declared. She announced her candidacy for the election in February 2023, before the census took place.

10 In the 2023 General Election, Takutai Tarsh Kemp for Te Pati Māori won the Tāmaki Makaurau Māori electorate, over Peeni Henare of Labour by a very slim margin of 42 votes.

11 This was the closest result in any Māori electorate in the 2023 General Election and if the matters set out above did breach the Act they may very likely have also influenced the result in that electorate.

#### **Potential Breaches of the Electoral Act 1993**

12 An elector changing their registration between the General and Māori electoral districts became possible through the exercise of the “Māori option” introduced into the Act by the Electoral (Māori Electoral Option) Legislation Act 2022 which came into force on 31 March 2023.

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<sup>2</sup> The previous allegations of breach of the Electoral Act 1993 by providing food during advance voting which the Electoral Commission chose not to refer to the police, as referred to in the article, and the separate matter of deleted social media videos promoting free food at the marae on providing proof of voting as report on here - <https://www.thepost.co.nz/politics/350170085/deleted-social-media-posts-raise-further-questions-about-treating-marae-polling>

- 13 It appears from the article that certain persons, on behalf of Manurewa Marae, run by one of the candidates in the election, gave incentives to electors in the form of food, drink and vouchers of monetary value to induce them to switch from the general electorate roll to the Māori electorate roll.
- 14 The Chief Executive of the Marae was standing in the relevant *Māori* electorate and so this switching of rolls effectively made them into electors eligible to vote for her.
- 15 It appears these actions constitute bribery under s 216 of the Act or treating under s 217 of the Act.
- 16 Both bribery and treating involve inducing of voters to vote or refrain from voting. The effect of switching between electorates effectively means that person will no longer be able to vote for the relevant general electorate but only be eligible to vote in the Māori electorate.
- 17 I look forward to hearing from you.



**From:** [Public Enquiries](#)  
**To:** [L & P Enquiries](#)  
**Subject:** [Enquiry Subject] Voting enquiry from Anon  
**Date:** Friday, 10 November 2023 8:08:18 am

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Hi Legal Team,

Here is an enquiry from Anon ([REDACTED]).

It was CC'd to:

**From:** Anon  
**Date:** Fri, Nov 10, 2023 at 7:54 am

**Name:** Anon

**Email:** [REDACTED]  
**From site:** elections.nz  
**Subject:** Voting  
**Type:** Complaint

**Message:**

Good morning, I've recently seen the story on RNZ about being given free food on voting at a Marae. The Marae at Ihumatao, Auckland, was also doing this practice. Apologies that I cannot provide any additional information, but I value my safety as the area around the Marae has a sizeable gang presence and with the recent comments from some politicians.



From: "Noreply" [REDACTED]

Reply-to: [REDACTED]

To: "Enquiries" [REDACTED]

Subject: Voting enquiry from [REDACTED]

**HTML**

**Text**

**Source**

---

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
From site: vote.nz

Subject: Voting

Type: Complaint

**Message:**

I would like to let you know that I felt disadvantaged while voting this year. I undertook an early special vote . firstly i voted at a voting station That was not advertised as a voting place (Kirikiriroa Marae based in Hamilton East which I feel is wrong. Secondly I had to have a handwritten voting paper which took some time to prepare was in red pen were words all ran into each other and the parties were hand written rather than logos. If the voting booth cannot have proper voting papers maybe a better way to do it would be to print them as required. I feel if you don't get told about the issue it cannot be fixed.

**From:** [Hilda](#) [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Natasha Kemp](#); [Angel Vargas](#)  
**Cc:** [Lola](#) [REDACTED]; [Cardena](#) [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Re: Manurewa Marae - Use of Facilities as an Advance and Election Day Voting Place  
**Date:** Sunday, 30 April 2023 7:07:42 am  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)  
[image001.png](#)

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**Electoral Commission Cyber Security Warning:** This email originated from outside of the Commission. Please take extra care when clicking links or opening attachments. When in doubt, contact the IT Service Desk.

Ka pai happy to hui about this with you Angela. Cardena can you see if I have any free time in the dates below.

Aku mihi  
Hilda  
Sent from my iPhone

On 29/04/2023, at 6:19 PM, Natasha Kemp  
<[REDACTED]@manurewamarae.co.nz> wrote:

I'll leave this for Hilda

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

---

**From:** Lola [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@manurewamarae.co.nz>  
**Sent:** Saturday, April 29, 2023 6:17:52 PM  
**To:** Natasha Kemp <[REDACTED]@manurewamarae.co.nz>; Hilda [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]@manurewamarae.co.nz  
**Subject:** Fwd: Manurewa Marae - Use of Facilities as an Advance and Election Day Voting Place  
For your information

Ngā mihi.

---

**From:** Angel Vargas [REDACTED]@elections.govt.nz>  
**Sent:** Saturday, April 29, 2023 3:41 PM  
**To:** Lola [REDACTED] [REDACTED]@manurewamarae.co.nz>  
**Subject:** Manurewa Marae - Use of Facilities as an Advance and Election Day Voting Place

Kia ora

I am the Electorate Manager looking after Manurewa and Tamaki Makaurau Electorates. Your contact details were forwarded to me by Georgia [REDACTED]  
I would like to set-up a meeting to discuss the details of using the Marae as a Voting Place for 2023 General Election. There is also a site assessment that I would need to complete, a procedure required by the Electoral Commission prior to confirming the use of a venue as a voting place.

I am available anytime after 12:30pm on Thursday (3rd May) or Friday (4<sup>th</sup> May).

Let me know the date and time that suits you best.

Thank you and I look forward to meeting you.

Ngā mihi

Angelica Tuyay Vargas | Electorate Manager – Manurewa & Tamaki Makaurau  
Electoral Commission | Te Kaitiaki Take Kōwhiri

Phone [REDACTED]

[vote.nz](https://www.vote.nz) | [elections.nz](https://www.elections.nz)



<https://www.elections.nz/jobs/>

**From:** Angel Vargas  
**Sent:** Friday, 26 May 2023 3:07 pm  
**To:** 'Cardena [REDACTED]'  
**Subject:** Manurewa Marae - Use of Facilities as an Advance and Election Day Voting Place  
**Attachments:** EC Recruitment Flyer - EOI.pdf

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Kia Ora Cardena

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to view the marae on 17<sup>th</sup> May to assess it as an advance and election day voting place. See my notes below:

1. As discussed, below are our proposed dates and opening hours.

Days	Opening Hours
Mon 2 <sup>nd</sup> to Fri 6 <sup>th</sup> October	10:00am to 4:00pm
Sat 7 <sup>th</sup> October	10:00am to 3:00pm
Sun 8 <sup>th</sup> October	Closed
Mon 9 <sup>th</sup> to Wed 11 <sup>th</sup> October	10:00am to 4:00pm
Thurs 12 <sup>th</sup> October	10:00am to 7:00pm
Fri 13 <sup>th</sup> October	10:00am to 4:00pm
Election Day - 14 <sup>th</sup> October	9:00am to 7:00pm

2. During **advance voting**, the Voting Team will be on site 30min before opening and closing times. The only exception will be Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> October when they will have to set-up for the first time. I will let the Voting Place Manager discuss the timing directly with you.  
For **election day**, the Voting Team will be on site until preliminary count is finished and the key materials are packed ready for transport to Electorate Headquarters. Finish time can be anywhere from 9:30pm until late.
3. It would be great if the Maori Wardens can provide security during late nights and on election day. Kindly send me details regarding arrangements and hourly rates so I can get approval from my Regional Manager.
4. There is a lockable room at the voting space that we can use for overnight storage of key voting materials. Only two people have keys to the room – Office Manager (Lola) and the Finance Manager.
5. The Voting Place Manager, once appointed, will discuss the details with you nearer to the date.
6. If you can recommend and send me the names of people who are interested to work at the marae (or at other locations), that will be great. There will be an interview for the manager and a short assessment for the other roles. If successful and they are available, they can also be employed for post-election activities at HQ.

Attached is our recruitment flyer to register interest to work and would appreciate if you can distribute it to your staff and their family/friends who might be interested (16+ can work with us). Recruitment for these roles will be available at the start of July.

Again, thank you for your time.

Ngā mihi

Angelica Tuyay Vargas | Electorate Manager – Manurewa & Tamaki Makaurau Electorates  
Electoral Commission | Te Kaitiaki Take Kōwhiri  
Phone [REDACTED] [vote.nz](https://www.vote.nz) | [elections.nz](https://www.elections.nz)



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<https://www.elections.nz/jobs/>

**From:** [Angel Vargas](#)  
**To:** "Hilda [REDACTED]"  
**Cc:** "Natasha Kemp"  
**Subject:** RE: Manurewa Marae - Use of Facilities as an Advance and Election Day Voting Place  
**Date:** Wednesday, 16 August 2023 2:10:00 pm  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)  
[image002.png](#)

---

Kia Ora Hilda

I was at the Marae on 1<sup>st</sup> August for our meeting and saw Cardena by chance as she was leaving. She explained to me where the recommended alternative voting space is located.

As we get nearer to the election period, there are details that would have to be discussed further. I will send you a separate email on items that needs confirmation.

One of the more pressing matter that I would like to check is whether you know of a few people who are keen to work at the Marae as part of my voting team (team of 3 or 4 staff).

Also, if there's any other information on my earlier email dated 26/05/2023 that you want to revisit, please let me know.

Ngā mihi

Angelica Tuyay Vargas | Electorate Manager – Manurewa & Tamaki Makaurau Electorates

Electoral Commission | Te Kaitiaki Take Kōwhiri

Phone [REDACTED] [vote.nz](#) | [elections.nz](#)



<https://www.elections.nz/jobs/>

---

**From:** Hilda [REDACTED] [REDACTED]@manurewamarae.co.nz>

**Sent:** Monday, August 14, 2023 10:29 AM

**To:** Angel Vargas <[REDACTED]@elections.govt.nz>

**Cc:** Natasha Kemp <[REDACTED]@manurewamarae.co.nz>

**Subject:** RE: Manurewa Marae - Use of Facilities as an Advance and Election Day Voting Place

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Kia Ora Angel,

Not sure if you received an email from me regarding the marae and the new area we have planned to have the election booth. Would really love to catch up around this.

Aku mihi

Hilda [REDACTED]

---

**From:** Angel Vargas <[REDACTED]@elections.govt.nz>

**Sent:** Tuesday, August 1, 2023 8:43 AM

**To:** Hilda [REDACTED] [REDACTED]@manurewamarae.co.nz>

**Subject:** RE: Manurewa Marae - Use of Facilities as an Advance and Election Day Voting Place

Kia Ora Hilda

See you later at 1:30pm at the Manurewa Marae.

Ngā mihi

Angelica Tuyay Vargas | Electorate Manager – Manurewa & Tamaki Makaurau Electorates

Electoral Commission | Te Kaitiaki Take Kōwhiri

Phone [REDACTED] [vote.nz](#) | [elections.nz](#)



<https://www.elections.nz/jobs/>

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**From:** Angel Vargas

**Sent:** Friday, July 28, 2023 3:22 PM

**To:** 'Hilda [REDACTED]' <[REDACTED]@manurewamarae.co.nz>; 'Natasha Kemp' <[REDACTED]@manurewamarae.co.nz>

**Subject:** RE: Manurewa Marae - Use of Facilities as an Advance and Election Day Voting Place

Kia Ora Hilda

Just wanted to follow up if we are confirmed to meet-up on Tuesday, 1<sup>st</sup> August, at 1:30pm.

Ngā mihi

Angelica Tuyay Vargas | Electorate Manager – Manurewa & Tamaki Makaurau Electorates

Electoral Commission | Te Kaitiaki Take Kōwhiri

Phone [REDACTED] [vote.nz](https://www.vote.nz) | [elections.nz](https://www.elections.nz)



<https://www.elections.nz/jobs/>

**From:** Angel Vargas

**Sent:** Wednesday, July 26, 2023 2:30 PM

**To:** Hilda [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@manurewamarae.co.nz>; Natasha Kemp <[REDACTED]@manurewamarae.co.nz>

**Subject:** RE: Manurewa Marae - Use of Facilities as an Advance and Election Day Voting Place

Kia Ora Hilda

I was thinking of 1:30pm and yes, it will be good to go through the questions again.

Ngā mihi

Angelica Tuyay Vargas | Electorate Manager – Manurewa & Tamaki Makaurau Electorates

Electoral Commission | Te Kaitiaki Take Kōwhiri

Phone [REDACTED] [vote.nz](https://www.vote.nz) | [elections.nz](https://www.elections.nz)



<https://www.elections.nz/jobs/>

**From:** Hilda [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@manurewamarae.co.nz>

**Sent:** Wednesday, July 26, 2023 1:01 PM

**To:** Angel Vargas <[REDACTED]@elections.govt.nz>; Natasha Kemp <[REDACTED]@manurewamarae.co.nz>

**Subject:** RE: Manurewa Marae - Use of Facilities as an Advance and Election Day Voting Place

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Kia Ora Angel,

Tuesday next week should be fine. What time suits you??

Be good to go through all the questions again.

Aku mihi

Hilda [REDACTED]

**From:** Angel Vargas <[REDACTED]@elections.govt.nz>

**Sent:** Wednesday, July 26, 2023 12:50 PM

**To:** Natasha Kemp <[REDACTED]@manurewamarae.co.nz>; Hilda [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@manurewamarae.co.nz>

**Subject:** RE: Manurewa Marae - Use of Facilities as an Advance and Election Day Voting Place

Kia Ora Hilda and Natasha

Thanks for letting me know.

Would it be possible to meet up next week so I can view the alternative voting space?

We could also discuss other details such as use of Maori wardens during late night voting periods and whether there's an available small room for overnight storage. I have mentioned these to Cardena at my last visit.

I am available to meet up anytime on Tuesday, 1<sup>st</sup> August.

Ngā mihi

Angelica Tuyay Vargas | Electorate Manager – Manurewa & Tamaki Makaurau Electorates

Electoral Commission | Te Kaitiaki Take Kōwhiri

Phone [REDACTED] [vote.nz](https://www.vote.nz) | [elections.nz](https://www.elections.nz)



<https://www.elections.nz/jobs/>

**From:** Natasha Kemp <[REDACTED]@manurewamarae.co.nz>

**Sent:** Wednesday, July 26, 2023 9:58 AM

**To:** Hilda [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@manurewamarae.co.nz>; Angel Vargas <[REDACTED]@elections.govt.nz>



**Subject:** RE: Manurewa Marae - Use of Facilities as an Advance and Election Day Voting Place

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Kiaora Angel,

We have another whare for use of the election booth at our Puna.

Nga Mihi,



**From:** Hilda [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@manurewamarae.co.nz>

**Sent:** Wednesday, 26 July 2023 9:44 AM

**To:** Angel Vargas <[REDACTED]@elections.govt.nz>

**Cc:** Natasha Kemp <[REDACTED]@manurewamarae.co.nz>

**Subject:** RE: Manurewa Marae - Use of Facilities as an Advance and Election Day Voting Place

Kia Ora Angel,

I would like to inform you that as of the 20<sup>th</sup> Aug 2023 the marae would be closed down due to rebuilding some of the structures of Maraei This will be a 6month project so we would love to catch up with you around what the electoral booths may look like here on our marae come October.

Aku mihi

Hilda [REDACTED]

---

**From:** Angel Vargas <[REDACTED]@elections.govt.nz>

**Sent:** Tuesday, June 6, 2023 4:43 PM

**To:** Hilda [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@manurewamarae.co.nz>

**Cc:** Natasha Kemp <[REDACTED]@manurewamarae.co.nz>

**Subject:** RE: Manurewa Marae - Use of Facilities as an Advance and Election Day Voting Place

Thanks Hilda

If there's any other detail on my earlier email to Cardena that you want to discuss further, please let me know.

I look forward to receiving the names for the Maori wardens.

Ngā mihi

Angelica Tuyay Vargas | Electorate Manager – Manurewa & Tamaki Makaurau Electorates

Electoral Commission | Te Kaitiaki Take Kōwhiri

Phone [REDACTED] [vote.nz](https://www.vote.nz) | [elections.nz](https://www.elections.nz)



<https://www.elections.nz/jobs/>

---

**From:** Hilda [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@manurewamarae.co.nz>

**Sent:** Tuesday, June 6, 2023 12:33 PM

**To:** Angel Vargas <[REDACTED]@elections.govt.nz>

**Cc:** Natasha Kemp <[REDACTED]@manurewamarae.co.nz>

**Subject:** Re: Manurewa Marae - Use of Facilities as an Advance and Election Day Voting Place

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Hourly rate for wardens would be a minimum of \$25 per hour

Sent from my iPhone

On 6/06/2023, at 12:21 PM, Hilda [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@manurewamarae.co.nz> wrote:

Kia Ora



Yes we can provide māori wardens, I will follow up with names and send these through to you.

Aku mihi

Hilda [REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

On 6/06/2023, at 12:08 PM, Cardena [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@manurewamarae.co.nz> wrote:

Kia Ora Angel,

Apologies for the delay in response, I have included our CEO Takutai Kemp and our operations manager Hilda [REDACTED] into the email, as explained when you came through I was just showing you around in their absence as they were called out of Auckland at the time. Takutai and Hilda will be able to pick things up from here as we move closer to the election dates.

Nga Mihi,

Cardena

---

**From:** Angel Vargas <[REDACTED]@elections.govt.nz>

**Sent:** Friday, May 26, 2023 3:07 PM

**To:** Cardena [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@manurewamarae.co.nz>

**Subject:** Manurewa Marae - Use of Facilities as an Advance and Election Day Voting Place  
Kia Ora Cardena

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to view the marae on 17<sup>th</sup> May to assess it as an advance and election day voting place. See my notes below:

1. As discussed, below are our proposed dates and opening hours.

Days	Opening Hours
Mon 2 <sup>nd</sup> to Fri 6 <sup>th</sup> October	10:00am to 4:00pm
Sat 7 <sup>th</sup> October	10:00am to 3:00pm
Sun 8 <sup>th</sup> October	Closed
Mon 9 <sup>th</sup> to Wed 11 <sup>th</sup> October	10:00am to 4:00pm
Thurs 12 <sup>th</sup> October	10:00am to 7:00pm
Fri 13 <sup>th</sup> October	10:00am to 4:00pm
Election Day - 14 <sup>th</sup> October	9:00am to 7:00pm

2. During **advance voting**, the Voting Team will be on site 30min before opening and closing times. The only exception will be Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> October when they will have to set-up for the first time. I will let the Voting Place Manager discuss the timing directly with you.

For **election day**, the Voting Team will be on site until preliminary count is finished and the key materials are packed ready for transport to Electorate Headquarters. Finish time can be anywhere from 9:30pm until late.

3. It would be great if the Maori Wardens can provide security during late nights and on election day. Kindly send me details regarding arrangements and hourly rates so I can get approval from my Regional Manager.

4. There is a lockable room at the voting space that we can use for overnight storage of key voting materials. Only two people have keys to the room – Office Manager (Lola) and the Finance Manager.

5. The Voting Place Manager, once appointed, will discuss the details with you nearer to the date.

6. If you can recommend and send me the names of people who are interested to work at the marae (or at other locations), that will be great. There will be an interview for the manager and a short assessment for the other roles. If successful and they are available, they can also be employed for post-election activities at HQ.

Attached is our recruitment flyer to register interest to work and would appreciate if you can distribute it to your staff and their family/friends who might be interested (16+ can work with us). Recruitment for these roles will be available at the start of July.

Again, thank you for your time.

Ngā mihi

Angelica Tuyay Vargas | Electorate Manager – Manurewa & Tamaki Makaurau

Electorates

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Phone [REDACTED] [vote.nz](https://www.vote.nz) | [elections.nz](https://www.elections.nz)

<image001.png>

<https://www.elections.nz/jobs/>

Ella [REDACTED]

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**From:** Angel Vargas  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 6 September 2023 11:24 am  
**To:** Hilda [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** Cardena [REDACTED] Natasha Kemp  
**Subject:** RE: Manurewa Marae - Use of Facilities as a Voting Place

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Kia Ora Hilda

Just following up on email below, hoping that you have some names for me. We prefer people from the community to run the voting place at the Marae.

Recruitment will be closing in the next few days.

Ngā mihi

Angelica Tuyay Vargas | Electorate Manager – Manurewa & Tamaki Makaurau Electorates  
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---

**From:** Angel Vargas  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 31, 2023 1:20 PM  
**To:** Hilda [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@manurewamarae.co.nz>; Natasha Kemp [REDACTED]@manurewamarae.co.nz  
**Cc:** Cardena [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@manurewamarae.co.nz>  
**Subject:** RE: Manurewa Marae - Use of Facilities as a Voting Place

Kia Ora Hilda

Attached are the position description of the different roles at the voting place – Voting Place Manager, Voting Assistant and Issuing Officers.

Applicants can send in their applications via this link [General Election 2023 - Manurewa Electorate - Electoral Commission \(elections.nz\)](#) (under the APPLY button at the bottom of the page).

We are now on the last stages of our recruitment for the advance voting teams. If they can submit their online application in the next day or two, that will be great. Kindly provide me a list of the names so I can keep an eye out for their application.

Ngā mihi

Angelica Tuyay Vargas | Electorate Manager – Manurewa & Tamaki Makaurau Electorates  
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From: Hilda [REDACTED] [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@manurewamarae.co.nz](mailto:[REDACTED]@manurewamarae.co.nz)>  
Sent: Thursday, August 31, 2023 12:13 PM  
To: Angel Vargas <[\[REDACTED\]@elections.govt.nz](mailto:[REDACTED]@elections.govt.nz)>; Natasha Kemp <[\[REDACTED\]@manurewamarae.co.nz](mailto:[REDACTED]@manurewamarae.co.nz)>  
Cc: Cardena [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@manurewamarae.co.nz](mailto:[REDACTED]@manurewamarae.co.nz)>  
Subject: Re: Manurewa Marae - Use of Facilities as a Voting Place

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Morena Angel,

Wonderful to finally meet you yesterday. As per our conversation just wanted to know some action points for us to complete as I know time is of the essence.

- Names to you regarding Kaimahi from the Marae (Hilda)
- Send JD (Angel)
- Send link for Kaimahi to apply (Angel)
- Send names of security (Hilda)
- Find a locked room in the Puna (Hilda)
- 16th September is training day

Aku mihi

Hilda [REDACTED]

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---

From: Hilda [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@manurewamarae.co.nz](mailto:[REDACTED]@manurewamarae.co.nz)>  
Sent: Friday, August 25, 2023 1:13:36 PM  
To: Angel Vargas <[\[REDACTED\]@elections.govt.nz](mailto:[REDACTED]@elections.govt.nz)>; Natasha Kemp <[\[REDACTED\]@manurewamarae.co.nz](mailto:[REDACTED]@manurewamarae.co.nz)>  
Cc: Cardena [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@manurewamarae.co.nz](mailto:[REDACTED]@manurewamarae.co.nz)>  
Subject: Re: Manurewa Marae - Use of Facilities as a Voting Place

Ka pai e mihi Ana. We will see you next week Wednesday

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---

From: Angel Vargas <[\[REDACTED\]@elections.govt.nz](mailto:[REDACTED]@elections.govt.nz)>  
Sent: Friday, August 25, 2023 1:01:33 PM  
To: Natasha Kemp <[\[REDACTED\]@manurewamarae.co.nz](mailto:[REDACTED]@manurewamarae.co.nz)>; Hilda [REDACTED] [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@manurewamarae.co.nz](mailto:[REDACTED]@manurewamarae.co.nz)>  
Cc: Cardena [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@manurewamarae.co.nz](mailto:[REDACTED]@manurewamarae.co.nz)>  
Subject: RE: Manurewa Marae - Use of Facilities as a Voting Place

Kia Ora

Attached is revised copy of confirmation letter of the use of the Manurewa Marae as an Advance and Election Day Voting Place in the upcoming 2023 General Election. I have increased the opening hours of Thursday, 5<sup>th</sup> October, and Friday, 6<sup>th</sup> October, from 4pm to 7pm.



A meeting has been arranged by Cardena for next week, Wednesday – 30<sup>th</sup> August. I am looking forward to see you then.

Ngā mihi

Angelica Tuyay Vargas | Electorate Manager – Manurewa & Tamaki Makaurau Electorates  
Electoral Commission | Te Kaitiaki Take Kōwhiri  
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---

**From:** Angel Vargas  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 23, 2023 12:25 PM  
**To:** Natasha Kemp [REDACTED] [@manurewamarae.co.nz](mailto:[REDACTED]@manurewamarae.co.nz); Hilda [REDACTED] [@manurewamarae.co.nz](mailto:[REDACTED]@manurewamarae.co.nz)  
**Subject:** RE: Manurewa Marae - Use of Facilities as a Voting Place

Kia Ora Takutai

The opening hours for voting places were identified based on historical data from previous elections and information received from site contact.

I could try to increase the opening hours for Thursday (5<sup>th</sup> Oct) and Friday (6<sup>th</sup> Oct) to 7:00pm. I will let you know soonest possible whether this can be done as the delivery of voting services has already been locked in.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday will have to remain at 4:00pm to prepare for the count on election day. There are other places at Clendon Park that are open for the full two weeks of advance voting.

It would be really good to have a face-to-face meeting to thresh out some of the other details.

Ngā mihi

Angelica Tuyay Vargas | Electorate Manager – Manurewa & Tamaki Makaurau Electorates  
Electoral Commission | Te Kaitiaki Take Kōwhiri  
Phone [REDACTED] [vote.nz](https://www.vote.nz) | [elections.nz](https://www.elections.nz)



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---

**From:** Natasha Kemp [REDACTED] [@manurewamarae.co.nz](mailto:[REDACTED]@manurewamarae.co.nz)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 23, 2023 11:15 AM  
**To:** Hilda [REDACTED] [@manurewamarae.co.nz](mailto:[REDACTED]@manurewamarae.co.nz); Angel Vargas <[\[REDACTED\]@elections.govt.nz](mailto:[REDACTED]@elections.govt.nz)>  
**Subject:** Re: Manurewa Marae - Use of Facilities as a Voting Place

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Kia ora a Angel,

I have just seen the operating hours. In this community it would be good to finish later in the evening eg 7pm as this will cater for working families. The idea is that our Marae is accessible to Whanganui of this community. Can you please confirm the extended hours.

Nga mihi,

Takutai

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---

**From:** Hilda [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@manurewamarae.co.nz>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 23, 2023 11:10:39 AM  
**To:** Natasha Kemp <[REDACTED]@manurewamarae.co.nz>  
**Subject:** Fwd: Manurewa Marae - Use of Facilities as a Voting Place

Here is the document for electoral commission

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---

**From:** Hilda [REDACTED] [REDACTED]@manurewamarae.co.nz>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 22, 2023 6:47:30 PM  
**To:** Angel Vargas [REDACTED]@elections.govt.nz>  
**Subject:** Re: Manurewa Marae - Use of Facilities as a Voting Place

Kia Ora Angel,

Ka pai I will do this first thing in the morning and send it back to you.

Aku mihi

Hilda [REDACTED]

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---

**From:** Angel Vargas [REDACTED]@elections.govt.nz>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 22, 2023 6:40:01 PM  
**To:** Hilda [REDACTED] [REDACTED]@manurewamarae.co.nz>  
**Subject:** RE: Manurewa Marae - Use of Facilities as a Voting Place

Kia Ora Hilda

Attached is confirmation letter of the use of the Manurewa Marae as an Advance and Election Day Voting Place in the upcoming 2023 General Election.

We also have a standard Electoral Commission document, Licence to Occupy for Voting Place, that will need both of our signatures. Kindly complete and return to me please. Let me know if you have any questions about the document, happy to clarify.

Ngā mihi

Angelica Tuyay Vargas | Electorate Manager – Manurewa & Tamaki Makaurau Electorates  
Electoral Commission | Te Kaitiaki Take Kōwhiri  
Phone [REDACTED] [vote.nz](#) | [elections.nz](#)



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From: Cardena [redacted] <[redacted]@manurewamarae.co.nz>  
Sent: Tuesday, June 6, 2023 12:09 PM  
To: Angel Vargas [redacted] <[redacted]@elections.govt.nz>  
Cc: Hilda [redacted] <[redacted]@manurewamarae.co.nz>; Natasha Kemp [redacted] <[redacted]@manurewamarae.co.nz>  
Subject: RE: Manurewa Marae - Use of Facilities as an Advance and Election Day Voting Place

**Electoral Commission Cyber Security Warning:** This email originated from outside of the Commission. Please take extra care when clicking links or opening attachments. When in doubt, contact the IT Service Desk.

Kia Ora Angel,

Apologies for the delay in response, I have included our CEO Takutai Kemp and our operations manager Hilda [redacted] into the email, as explained when you came through I was just showing you around in their absence as they were called out of Auckland at the time.

Takutai and Hilda will be able to pick things up from here as we move closer to the election dates.

Nga Mihi,  
Cardena

From: Angel Vargas <[redacted]@elections.govt.nz>  
Sent: Friday, May 26, 2023 3:07 PM  
To: Cardena [redacted] <[redacted]@manurewamarae.co.nz>  
Subject: Manurewa Marae - Use of Facilities as an Advance and Election Day Voting Place

Kia Ora Cardena

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to view the marae on 17<sup>th</sup> May to assess it as an advance and election day voting place. See my notes below:

1. As discussed, below are our proposed dates and opening hours.

Days	Opening Hours
Mon 2 <sup>nd</sup> to Fri 6 <sup>th</sup> October	10:00am to 4:00pm
Sat 7 <sup>th</sup> October	10:00am to 3:00pm
Sun 8 <sup>th</sup> October	Closed
Mon 9 <sup>th</sup> to Wed 11 <sup>th</sup> October	10:00am to 4:00pm
Thurs 12 <sup>th</sup> October	10:00am to 7:00pm
Fri 13 <sup>th</sup> October	10:00am to 4:00pm
Election Day - 14 <sup>th</sup> October	9:00am to 7:00pm

2. During **advance voting**, the Voting Team will be on site 30min before opening and closing times. The only exception will be Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> October when they will have to set-up for the first time. I will let the Voting Place Manager discuss the timing directly with you.  
For **election day**, the Voting Team will be on site until preliminary count is finished and the key materials are packed ready for transport to Electorate Headquarters. Finish time can be anywhere from 9:30pm until late.



3. It would be great if the Maori Wardens can provide security during late nights and on election day. Kindly send me details regarding arrangements and hourly rates so I can get approval from my Regional Manager.
4. There is a lockable room at the voting space that we can use for overnight storage of key voting materials. Only two people have keys to the room – Office Manager (Lola) and the Finance Manager.
5. The Voting Place Manager, once appointed, will discuss the details with you nearer to the date.
6. If you can recommend and send me the names of people who are interested to work at the marae (or at other locations), that will be great. There will be an interview for the manager and a short assessment for the other roles. If successful and they are available, they can also be employed for post-election activities at HQ.

Attached is our recruitment flyer to register interest to work and would appreciate if you can distribute it to your staff and their family/friends who might be interested (16+ can work with us). Recruitment for these roles will be available at the start of July.

Again, thank you for your time.

Ngā mihi

**Angelica Tuyay Vargas** | Electorate Manager – Manurewa & Tamaki Makaurau Electorates  
Electoral Commission | Te Kaitiaki Take Kōwhiri  
Phone [REDACTED] [vote.nz](https://www.vote.nz) | [elections.nz](https://www.elections.nz)



**We're looking for leaders who  
their community to help de**

<https://www.elections.nz/jobs/>



Timeline for engagement with Manurewa Marae	
Date	Activity
23 Jan	Following a connection made at Auckland Funfest (12-15 Jan), internal email exchange between Erin ■ Georgia, and Crystal to discuss the opportunity to meet with Manurewa Marae.
27 Jan	<p>Online hui between Manurewa Marae and EC, a new date to meet set for 28 Feb.</p> <p><u>Notes provided by Erin ■■■■</u> :</p> <p><i>Participants - Crystal, Erin, Georgia (Commission) Te Kou, Natasha Kemp (Manurewa).</i></p> <p><i>Crystal introduced Erin and Georgia to Te Kou. Erin and Georgia spoke about our objectives to better serve Māori during GE 2023 and our interest in partnering with Māori organisations to:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Secure property for voting places significant to Māori</i></li> <li>• <i>Recruit Staff who could speak Te Reo and can work in a bilingual voting place.</i></li> <li>• <i>Help with community engagement to increase participation and voter turnout.</i></li> <li>• <i>Te Kou spoke about the work they had done through COVID and the Census and how they were able to increase turnouts for these community events in Manurewa, he thought the Marae Committee would also be interest in partnering with the commission to provide the same support they did to the Ministry of Health and Stats NZ</i></li> </ul> <p><i>Next Steps -</i></p> <p><i>Te Kou would set up a follow up meeting to introduce us to the leadership team at Manurewa Marae</i></p>
2 Feb	Email exchange with Te Kou sorting contact details and confirming 28 <sup>th</sup> Feb.
28 Feb	<p>Hui at Manurewa Marae.</p> <p><u>Notes provided by Georgia ■■■■</u> :</p> <p><i>Participants - Erin, Georgia (Commission); Te Kou, Hilda (Manurewa).</i></p> <p><i>Meeting purpose -</i></p> <p><i>This meeting was arranged to follow on from the meeting that was had on January 27<sup>th</sup>. This was the first in person meeting to discuss a space to do Community Engagement as well as provide a voting place at the marae. This was discussed due to the reach that the marae has had in previous events for eg: Covid Response and Census.</i></p> <p><i>Proceedings -</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>A space for Community Engagement</i></li> <li>• <i>A space for the full voting period (2<sup>nd</sup> October up and including the 14<sup>th</sup> October)</i></li> <li>• <i>Manurewa Marae sharing your event calendar and EC sharing key dates and time-frames.</i></li> <li>• <i>Possible opportunities for Manurewa Marae staff to work within the Community Engagement space as well as working within the voting place (Marae whare). Erin suggested 2 options for this and that is Manurewa Marae gets a contract and pays staff or staff work for the Electoral Commission</i></li> <li>• <i>If the staff are interested, they can work in the voting place but they would need to be employed by the Electoral Commission as they will be hired as Electoral Officials (we advised this can be discussed in more detail at later stage)</i></li> <li>• <i>The Electorate Manager will need to do a voting place assessment at the Marae to ensure this is safe and secure for not only staff and voters but also voting materials.</i></li> <li>• <i>If the Manurewa Marae can share key messages around Māori Electoral Option (01<sup>ST</sup> April – 14<sup>TH</sup> July) and also enrolling to vote.</i></li> </ul> <p><i>Conclusion -</i></p> <p><i>Tekou and Hilda were going to take these discussions to their leadership and come back to the Electoral Commission on next steps.</i></p>

28 Feb	<p>Stakeholder hui at EC Ellerslie Office:</p> <p><u>Notes provided by Georgia [REDACTED]</u></p> <p>Participants – Erin [REDACTED], Georgia [REDACTED], Jeremy Kannemeyer, Kim Lockwood, Peter [REDACTED] and Angel Vargas (Commission); Tim [REDACTED], Tautoko [REDACTED], Virginia [REDACTED], Pania [REDACTED], Robert [REDACTED], Tom ?, Ann [REDACTED] and Ariana [REDACTED] (community advocates).</p> <p>Meeting purpose –  <i>This meeting was arranged following training for our Electorate Managers in Wellington. A session was delivered by Peter [REDACTED] to our Electorate Managers about how we will improve services to Māori Voters for GE2023. So Georgia organised a meeting with our Community Advocate. They have been working with us since 2018 when we started our first lot of hui. The purpose of our community advocates is to provide insights on behalf of whanau within Tamaki Makaurau. Since 2018 we have had discussions around voting experiences and how we at the Commission can change the narrative for whanau for future elections.</i></p> <p>Proceedings -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Opened with Karakia and Whanaungatanga for those that were new to the hui.</li> <li>- Showed the video that was made in Highbury around how we can improve services to Māori (video was also shown to Electorate Managers at training)</li> <li>- Talked about Locations, opening hours, and staffing for these voting places.</li> <li>- Suggestions were made from our community advocates about using Marae around Auckland, the ones that suggested were Papakura, Manurewa, Ruapotaka, Orakei, and Hoani Waititi Marae</li> <li>- Discussed how we can connect our Electorate Managers to our Community Advocates</li> <li>- Next Steps from this hui</li> </ul> <p>Conclusion -  <i>Community Advocates understood what we were trying to do at the Commission to improve services to Māori and that was finding voting places where Māori resonate with, ensuring they have Māori working within these voting places and ensuring that the opening hours were convenient to Māori.</i>  <i>From this meeting, Georgia connected the different community advocates to the different Electorate Managers dependent on what part of Auckland they represent.</i>  <i>Community advocates assisted with insights on where and also gave contacts of locations so electorates manager could make contact and arrange assessments for the different voting places.</i></p>
3 Mar	Email exchange sharing minutes from 28 Feb Manurewa Marae hui.
6 Mar	Further email exchange noting current priority on MEO campaign starting from April 1st. Te Kou copies Natasha Kemp into this exchange.
7-9 Mar	Email exchange to organise hui with Director Voting Services. Noted by Erin that meeting with Martin will help speed up the process and secure Marae funding. Hui agreed for 14 March
14 Mar	<p>Meeting at Manurewa Marae..</p> <p><u>Notes provided by Georgia [REDACTED]</u></p> <p>Participants - Martin Rodgers, Erin [REDACTED], Jeremy Kannemeyer, Georgia [REDACTED], Kim Lockwood (Electoral Commission); Natasha Kemp, Hilda [REDACTED], Tekou [REDACTED] (Manurewa marae).</p> <p>Meeting purpose -  <i>One of the Electoral Commission’s strategic goals for GE 2023 is to improve voting services to Māori. The Manurewa marae has a very strong community base and has successfully delivered programmes to local Māori communities for Covid vaccination programmes and food parcels. The meeting was arranged to discuss the possibility of utilizing the networks established by the Manurewa marae and setting up a voting place at the marae to improve Māori voter turnout.</i></p>

*Proceedings -*

*Informal discussions were held to assess this opportunity and any risk assessment of using the marae as a voting place. This would cover both advance voting and election day.*

*Topics included:*

- *Obtaining approval for Manurewa marae's executive*
- *Any conflict of interest between the marae's CEO (standing as a candidate for the Māori Party) and the Electoral Commission's operating guidelines*
- *The marae's perceived connection with the Māori Party*
- *The role of tikanga at a voting place*
- *Setting up a voting place, including employing marae staff, training, voting place assessment, training, and any payment of using the marae as a voting place*
- *Possible involvement of Te Pae Herenga o Tamaki marae and other marae around the country as voting places*

*Conclusion -*

*Following a useful and constructive discussion both parties agreed to discuss the issues further with their respective organisations and arrange a follow-up meeting within the coming weeks. Furthermore, there was some discussion of developing a MOU between the two parties to clearly delineate roles and responsibilities.*

17 May

VP assessment completed by EM.

Notes provided by Angelica Vargas:

*Participants – Angel Vargas (Commission); Cardena [REDACTED] (Manurewa Marae)*

*Meeting purpose -*

*The purpose of the meeting was to assess proposed voting space (wharekai) and explain operational requirements to Marae staff to ensure good voting service delivery to the community i.e. opening hours, preparation work (EC and marae) prior to voting period, security via Māori Wardens, secure storage of key voting materials and next steps.*

*Meeting Notes (taken from follow up email on 26 May) –*

1. *As discussed, below are our proposed dates and opening hours.*

<b>Days</b>	<b>Opening Hours</b>
<i>Mon 2<sup>nd</sup> to Fri 6<sup>th</sup> October</i>	<i>10:00am to 4:00pm</i>
<i>Sat 7<sup>th</sup> October</i>	<i>10:00am to 3:00pm</i>
<i>Sun 8<sup>th</sup> October</i>	<i>Closed</i>
<i>Mon 9<sup>th</sup> to Wed 11<sup>th</sup> October</i>	<i>10:00am to 4:00pm</i>
<i>Thurs 12<sup>th</sup> October</i>	<i>10:00am to 7:00pm</i>
<i>Fri 13<sup>th</sup> October</i>	<i>10:00am to 4:00pm</i>
<i>Election Day - 14<sup>th</sup> October</i>	<i>9:00am to 7:00pm</i>

2. *During **advance voting**, the Voting Team will be on site 30min before opening and closing times. The only exception will be Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> October when they will have to set-up for the first time. I will let the Voting Place Manager discuss the timing directly with you. For **election day**, the Voting Team will be on site until preliminary count is finished and the key materials are packed ready for transport to Electorate Headquarters. Finish time can be anywhere from 9:30pm until late.*

	<p>3. <i>It would be great if the Maori Wardens can provide security during late nights and on election day. Kindly send me details regarding arrangements and hourly rates so I can get approval from my Regional Manager.</i></p> <p>4. <i>There is a lockable room at the voting space that we can use for overnight storage of key voting materials. Only two people have keys to the room – Office Manager (Lola) and the Finance Manager.</i></p> <p>5. <i>The Voting Place Manager, once appointed, will discuss the details with you nearer to the date.</i></p> <p>6. <i>If you can recommend and send me the names of people who are interested to work at the marae (or at other locations), that will be great. There will be an interview for the manager and a short assessment for the other roles. If successful and they are available, they can also be employed for post-election activities at HQ.</i></p> <p>7. <i>Attached is our recruitment flyer to register interest to work and would appreciate if you can distribute it to your staff and their family/friends who might be interested (16+ can work with us). Recruitment for these roles will be available at the start of July.</i></p> <p><i>Conclusion - Another meeting will be scheduled nearer to the election period for a more detailed discussion and a follow-up by the Voting Place Manager once appointed.</i></p>
26 May	Follow up email with Manurewa re VP assessment, proposed opening hours, and request for information.
6 Jun	Response from marae copying in Hilda [REDACTED] and Tarsh Kemp
26 Jul	Marae informs EM of building work taking place and need to change VP location, offer of a different location on the grounds made by Natasha. EM responds wanting to come and check alternative venue.
31 Jul	[REDACTED] feedback on draft voting places received which includes concerns expressed re Manurewa Marae.
1 Aug	<p>Meeting at Marae to assess new location.</p> <p><u>Notes provided by Angel Vargas:</u></p> <p><i>Participants – Angel Vargas (Commission); Cardena [REDACTED] (Manurewa)</i></p> <p><i>Meeting purpose - The original voting space (wharekai) became unavailable due to renovation works. An alternative space within the premises was proposed and for EC to check if suitable.</i></p> <p><i>Meeting Notes - The main purpose of the site visit was to assess if alternative space is suitable for voting in terms of size, layout, entrance/exit flow and alternatives if raining, parking and other physical site requirements. No other issues were discussed.</i></p> <p><i>Conclusion - Initial check found the space to be suitable for advance and election day voting. A meeting still had to be arranged with Hilda [REDACTED] to discuss other important issues regarding the marae as a voting place.</i></p>
16 Aug	Response to [REDACTED] noting the rationale for using Manurewa.
22 Aug	Confirmation letter and Licence to Occupy sent to Marae, confirmation of receipt received.
23 Aug	Request from Natasha around revising opening hours

25 Aug	Reply from EM with rationale and options to consider. Revised documentation sent through with change to opening hours.
30 Aug	<p>Onsite meeting with Hilda to go over details including recruitment, operations, security, costs etc. Meeting notes shared the following day:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Names to you regarding Kaimahi from the Marae (Hilda)</li> <li>- Send JD (Angel)</li> <li>- Send link for Kaimahi to apply (Angel)</li> <li>- Send names of security (Hilda)</li> <li>- Find a locked room in the Puna (Hilda)</li> <li>- 16th September is training day</li> </ul> <p><u>Additional notes provided by Angel Vargas:</u></p> <p><i>Participants – Angel Vargas (Commission); Hilda [REDACTED] (Manurewa)</i></p> <p><i>Meeting purpose -</i>  <i>To discuss and resolve all outstanding issues prior to the marae being used as an advance and election day voting place.</i></p> <p><i>Meeting Notes -</i>  <i>The following action points were discussed:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <i>Voting space will be cleared and ready for set-up by our voting team prior to 2<sup>nd</sup> October. Entrance and exit options were assessed to make sure that the layout did not impede flow of voters.</i></li> <li>2. <i>Opening hours were confirmed by Angel.</i></li> <li>3. <i>Hilda confirmed that Māori wardens can provide security services during the voting period and names will be provided beforehand.</i></li> <li>4. <i>Recruitment was discussed – Angel will send job descriptions and link to online application for kaimahi to apply (Note: After the meeting, names of recommended candidates were provided by Hilda via e-mail but only four were appointed due to availability. One was appointed as VPM for advance and election day and the three other applicants worked only on Saturday for advance voting and on election day.)</i></li> <li>5. <i>Angel explained recruitment process and confirmed upcoming training dates.</i></li> <li>6. <i>Angel explained and emphasized the need for political neutrality within and around the voting place. Logos, flags, clothing with details of political parties or candidates and any other promotional materials were not to be displayed near the voting place. Hilda confirmed understanding and agreement to this requirement.</i></li> </ol> <p><i>Conclusion -</i>  <i>Both agreed that all action notes or open issues will be followed-up via email messages. The next face-to-face contact with the marae will be through the voting team.</i></p>
31 Aug	Reminder email sent to complete 'Licence to Occupy' and 'Tax Invoice'. Copied to CE of Manurewa.
13 Sept	Phone call and emails exchanged regarding recruitment
21 Sept	Further recruitment related emails.
3 Oct	Complaints raised by [REDACTED] regarding social media post
4 Oct	Enquiry with Marae who note they will "look into it".
11 Oct	Complaint received from Freedom NZ Party, email to Marae who confirm that kai is provided to all people attending marae not just those who have voted.
1 Nov	Complaint received from [REDACTED]
8 Nov	Further concerns raised by [REDACTED]
9 Nov	Response to [REDACTED] from Commission.
	Receive complaint from member of the public.



Timeline for engagement with Te Pae Herenga O Tāmaki	
Date	Activity
17 Mar	Email from Natasha Kemp to EC following meeting at Manurewa on 14 March. Connects EC to Renee (Ops Manager for Te Pae Herenga).
27 Mar	Follow up email sent from Lance (Director, Health Reforms) seeking to meet with EC regarding improving Māori turnout for the GE. Notes the marae involved in the collective.
3 Apr	<p>Hui between EC and TPH, Manurewa, and Waipareira. Minutes shared by Lance later that day:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Te Pae Herenga o Tāmaki Partners to be registered as Polling Booths for the October 2023 General Election. The eight organisations included in the presentations, plus we will have others to add for example, Hoani Waititi Marae, Te Kaha O Te Rangatahi.</li> <li>- Te Pae Herenga o Tāmaki Partners to also be registered as mobile Polling Booths for the October 2023 General Election. This is to allow our vehicles / tents etc to be set up at Parks, Community Centres, Kōhanga Reo, Kura Kaupapa Māori to improve access for Whānau.</li> <li>- All our Māori Partners to have their respective polling booths open for the two weeks leading into the Election (inclusive of Election Day).</li> <li>- The ability for our respective staff to pick up completed votes and deliver to approved Polling Booths to improve access for Whānau.</li> <li>- Funding and training for our respective staff to manage the polling booths.</li> <li>- Using your baseline digital information and dissemination through our social media networks.</li> </ul> <p>As discussed, Te Pae Herenga o Tāmaki Partners will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Ensure there are at least 2 Te Reo Māori speakers at all our Polling Booths.</li> <li>- Run Rangatahi specific events to encourage young voters to register and vote.</li> <li>- Run Kuia and Kaumatua friendly events to encourage older voters to register and vote.</li> <li>- Use our various Te Pae Herenga o Tāmaki and Partners social media platforms to encourage Māori to register and vote.</li> </ul> <p><u>Additional notes provided by Georgia [REDACTED]</u></p> <p><i>Participants - Erin [REDACTED], Georgia [REDACTED], Kate Sewell, Hone Matthews (Commission); Lance Norman, Maria [REDACTED], Renee [REDACTED], Tarsha [REDACTED], Jaqui [REDACTED], Tarsh Takutai-Kemp, Hilda [REDACTED] (Te Pae Herenga).</i></p> <p><i>Meeting purpose -</i>  <i>One of the Electoral Commission's strategic goals for GE 2023 is to improve voting services to Māori. Initially we had discussions with the Manurewa Marae on the 14<sup>th</sup> March and from this meeting, discussions were had around working with Te Pae Herenga Collective as we could look at a bigger reach of Māori across Tamaki Makaurau.</i></p> <p><i>Proceedings -</i>  <i>This meeting began with Whanaungatanga, and then Lance Norman delivered a presentation giving an overview of the Collective, their Education Strategy and their Health Strategy. It covered their mahi on how they engaged with Māori Communities across Tāmaki (and Aotearoa) during the Covid-19 response.</i></p> <p><i>Conclusion -</i>  <i>Electoral Commission staff to take this information back to the leadership team to discuss next steps. Goe to follow up with organising site assessments with partners within the Collective alongside Renee (Te Pae Herenga Collective).</i></p>
4 Apr	Internal email discussing successful hui and noting potential for relationship.
6 Apr	Response from EC agreeing with all the above and suggesting next steps:

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Site Inspections for fixed locations and an agreement of opening days and hours for advanced voting and Election Day</li> <li>2. Discuss and create a shared calendar for: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Mobile / Pop up units for advance voting</li> <li>b. Enrolment / Education opportunities leading up to GE 2023 e.g., Whanau days.</li> </ol> </li> <li>3. Recruitment plan for staff working in Voting Places</li> <li>4. Develop a training schedule for Takeaway votes and Voting staff.</li> <li>5. Organise a wananga two weeks after the Election to review the service provided to our community.</li> </ol>
12 Apr	Follow up email from EC seeking confirmation of site inspections.
23 Apr	Response from TPH proposing 14 sites
1 May	Acknowledgement email and additional contacts provided
4-8 May	Internal kōrero re suitability and risks of working with Collective. Agree to proceed.
12 May	Internal hui between VS and SEP to discuss risk management and planning. Agree that Directors will hold responsibility to progress MoU with the Collective
15 May	Internal approach to L&P regarding drafting an MoU
15 May	Email from Renee (Ops Lead) re enrolment information
16 May	<p>Hui between EC and TPH to discuss progressing MoU. Agree to set up a wānanga between the parties to facilitate this.</p> <p>Notes Provided by Georgia [REDACTED]</p> <p>Participants- Erin [REDACTED] Georgia [REDACTED] Kate Sewell (Commission); Lance Norman, Maria [REDACTED]</p> <p>Meeting purpose -  Emails were exchanged prior to this meeting and Lance confirmed that they will propose to use the following sites for Voting Places for this year's General Election:</p> <p><b>(1) Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Whātua</b> - 1 &amp; 3-5 Rendall Place, Auckland.  <b>(2) Te Puna Hauora o Te Raki Paewhenua</b> - 58 Akoranga Drive, Northcote, Auckland.  <b>(3) Te Whānau o Waipareira</b> - Ground Floor, 6/8 Pioneer Street, Henderson, Auckland.  <b>(4) Ruapotaka Marae</b> - 106 Line Road, Glen Innes, Auckland.  <b>(5) Manukau Urban Māori Authority / Nga Whare Waatea Marae</b> - 31 Calthorp Close, Favona, Auckland.  <b>(6) Manurewa Marae</b> - 81 Finlayson Avenue, Clendon Park, Manukau City.  <b>(7) Papakura Marae</b> - 29 Hunua Road, Auckland.  <b>(8) Huakina Development Trust</b> - 15/17 Roulston Street, Pukekohe.  <b>(9) Hoani Waititi Marae</b> - 451 West Coast Road, Oratia, Auckland.  <b>(10) Te Kaha O Te Rangatahi</b> - 2b Jellicoe Road, Manurewa, Auckland.  <b>(11) Mobile Collection Van - Te Whānau o Waipareira</b> - West Auckland.  <b>(12) Mobile Collection Van - Manurewa Marae</b> - South Auckland.</p> <p>Other Sites:  <b>(13) Te Mahurehure Cultural Marae</b> - 65/73 Premier Avenue, Point Chevalier, Auckland.  <b>(14) Orakei Marae</b> - 59B Kitemoana Street, Orakei, Auckland.</p> <p>Danielle and Renee are the Relationship Managers for Te Pae Herenga o Tāmaki partners. Jacqui is the Chair of Te Pae Herenga o Tāmaki. Renee is planning on sending information out to the partners in the coming week. She will coordinate site visits with the Partners and our team over the next few weeks.  Maria [REDACTED] supports the organisations with funding proposals. Both Maria and Lance will connect with the team regarding budgets and timing.</p> <p>Proceedings:</p>



	<p>A MOU that needs to be agreed and in place prior to operational aspects of setting up voting places. To develop a MOU to capture key goals and conditions relating to the relationship between EC and the Collective:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Identify a key contact person within the Collective – Maria/Jackie</li> <li>- The EC to be represented by Martin Rodgers and Shane Whitfield</li> <li>- Ensure political neutrality</li> <li>- Ensure there are no incentives/inducements to encourage voter turnout</li> <li>- Ensure there are clear guidelines regarding political party regalia – to cover both advance voting and ED</li> <li>- Gain clarity about funding of sites to be used as VPs</li> <li>- Expand initiative to other sites in the North Island?</li> </ul> <p><u>Voting place management</u> Voting Services to take responsibilities for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- VP assessments of all agreed sites (Electorate Manager)</li> <li>- Recruitment - actively engage with marae personnel to recruit staff to work in the VP. To ensure political neutrality (Electorate Manager)</li> <li>- Appoint VP staff in conjunction with marae (Electorate Manager)</li> <li>- Training <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o To be conducted at a designated marae for all sites identified within the Collective (Electorate Manager)</li> <li>o Training resources required from NO to support Te Reo initiatives</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>Erin advised the need for an MOU moving forward and the next step was to organise a Wānanga between Martin/Shane for the Electoral Commission and the same level leadership for Te Pae Herenga to discuss and agree on a MOU. Georgia also mentioned that some of the proposed sites that were on offer to use as Voting Places had already been agreed to use at a local level. These sites were Ruapotaka Marae, Manurewa Marae, Papakura Marae, Hoani Waititi Marae and Orakei Marae</p> <p>Conclusion - Erin to propose a date that will work for Te Pae Herenga Collective and the Electoral Commission to discuss MOU. Erin sent emails to Te Pae Herenga Collective.</p>
17-19 May	Further internal discussion regarding logistics, noted request from Karl to have MoU in place before confirming any voting places. MoU noted to ensure coverage for political neutrality.
23 May	Internal hui to progress MoU, aiming for June 1 to hold wānanga. Proposed date shared with Collective.
26 May	Email noting yet to hear back from Collective
22 June	Email from EC seeking to progress site usage kōrero. Provided a list of the proposed sites and progress on confirming each of them as a VP.
30 June	After multiple attempts at contact, suggestion is made to halt plans with Collective and instead progress kōrero with individual marae. Agree to proceed.
4 July	Paper from VS to Board noting relationship with the Collective and related mahi.
21 July	Response to 22 June email noting contact person had been away. Advises of the need to connect with remaining partner sites to progress the kōrero.
24 – 28 Jul	Internal emails discussing whether to re-visit original plans. Email notes the link between political party and Waipareira.
2 Aug	Email from Waipareira funding lead seeking to progress our partnered approach again.
4 Aug	Hui organised for 9 August with Collective. Advice from VS is that they are still interested in locking in further voting places, and they are comfortable for hui to proceed.
7 Aug	Internal emails show final agreement to not to proceed with Collective and instead work with individual marae, Collective will be informed at upcoming hui.
9 Aug	Follow up hui to decision on working with individual marae.
	Notes provided by Georgia [REDACTED]

*Participants – Erin [REDACTED] Georgia [REDACTED] Kate Sewell (Commission); Lance Norman, Maria [REDACTED] Dan [REDACTED]*

*Meeting purpose -*

*Te Pae Herenga to progress with their business case and to come together to discuss the finer details around operationalising an approach led by Te Whānau o Waipareira and Te Pae Herenga Collective*

*Proceedings -*

*An assumption was made by the Collective that all voting places that were proposed were confirmed to use as voting places for this year's GE, Georgia confirmed that she had made numerous attempts with Renee to co-ordinate site visits to the proposed sites within the Collective and there was no reply from Renee. They advised that she had gone on Maternity leave.*

*Conclusion -*

*Georgia advised that all voting places needed to be assessed and confirmed by the 22<sup>nd</sup> of August latest and at this point would not progress further. Lance thought that voting places were confirmed as they were on the draft voting services information sent to political parties, but it was clarified that these were as placeholders only and couldn't be confirmed as we could not get the assessment completed due to not having any contact from Te Pae Herenga (Renee).*

File note from Karl Le Quesne

Coffee with Mark [REDACTED] StatsNZ on 24 Nov 23 - regular catch up

- Discussed

- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]

- Allegation that staff at Manurewa marae may have misused census data and that Commission had advised the complainants to raise that with StatsNZ.

**From:** [Karl Le Quesne](#)  
**To:** [Kristina Temel](#); [Natalie \[REDACTED\]](#); [Clare \[REDACTED\]](#); [Marie Shroff Gmail](#); [Jane Meares](#)  
**Cc:** [Leigh Deuchars](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Terms of Reference - alleged misuse of census data  
**Date:** Friday, 7 June 2024 4:57:40 pm  
**Attachments:** [Investigation and Assurance Review Terms of Reference June 2024 \(Final\).pdf](#)

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Hi

I asked stats NZ to address an error in the terms of reference. Attached is an update.

See paragraphs 7 & 8, which in the previous version implied we had made a referral to Police about incentives to switch rolls. That was not correct. We only referred regarding the lack of a promoter statement, and were not aware of incentives to switch rolls at that stage (which is not an offence in the Electoral Act).

The version attached, and updated on their website, does not refer to the Electoral Commission in paragraphs 7 & 8.

Our website and statements we have made are clear that it was a lack of a promoter statement that was referred.

Karl Le Quesne

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**From:** Karl Le Quesne  
**Sent:** Friday, June 7, 2024 3:45 PM  
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**Cc:** Leigh Deuchars <[REDACTED]@elections.govt.nz>  
**Subject:** FW: Terms of Reference - alleged misuse of census data

For your information.

These will be published shortly.

Karl Le Quesne