

From: [L & P Enquiries](#)

Bcc:

[secretary@maori-party.org.nz](mailto:secretary@maori-party.org.nz)

Subject: Party compliance responsibilities over the next few months

Date: Thursday, 25 January 2024 4:02:00 pm

Attachments: [image001.jpg](#)  
[Representation Letter - party donations and loans return.docx](#)  
[Cover letter for representation letter - annual return.docx](#)  
[Party Donations and Loans Return FILLABLE.pdf](#)  
[Party Donations and Loans Return Instructions.pdf](#)  
[Party Donations and Loans Return PRINT.pdf](#)  
[s71A stat dec-manual.doc](#)  
[s71A stat dec template electronic.doc](#)

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Tēnā koe party secretary,

This email is a reminder of your party's compliance responsibilities over the next few months.

#### **Broadcasting allocation invoices**

The last day to submit invoices to the Commission for payment of the broadcasting allocation is **31 January 2024**. Once we receive an invoice, we will check that the account has been signed by an authorised party official and is for valid costs that can be paid from the allocation. Please ensure you submit invoices as soon as possible, so we can work through any issues.

#### **Election expenses for the 2023 General Election**

Payment of invoices for party advertising expenses must be made by **2 February 2024**.

Your audited party election expenses return must be filed by **13 March 2024**. Included on the form is a return of the party's broadcasting allocation expenses, which must also be completed if you received an allocation of money from the broadcasting allocation. The return form, and representation letter were sent to you by email on 11 December, and are also available for download in the Forms section of the Portal.

Please note parties that did not contest the party vote at the election still have to file a return.

If advertising expenses are apportioned between the party and a candidate, please ensure they are consistently reported in the candidate and party returns. Costs of advertising by a third party that promotes voting for your party should also be included in the return.

#### **Party donations and loans return**

The deadline for your annual return of party donations and loans for the 2023 calendar year is **30 April 2024**. The changes that came into force on 1 January 2023 will apply to this return.

For parties that registered during 2023, you only need to report donations and loans received from the date of registration in the return.

The return does not have to be audited if the total value of donations is \$50,000 or less, and you have no loans to report.

#### **Monetary and non-monetary donations**

You need to provide a breakdown of total monetary and non-monetary donations received during 2023 at step 2 of the return form.

Monetary donations include monetary payments made by a donor for the party. For example, if a donor paid one of the party's advertising invoices for the party this should be counted as a monetary donation. Non-monetary donations include goods and services given to the party, and include the value of goods and services given to a party at below reasonable market value.

A copy of the template audit representation letter and covering letter, and the party donations and loans return form are attached. The return can be completed electronically as a fillable return, and instructions on how to complete the electronic version are provided. If you would prefer to complete the return by hand, please use the print version of the form (also attached). The template representation letter is for your optional use. If you use the template letter or your own representation letter, we request that you provide a copy with your return.

### **Annual financial statements**

The changes from 1 January 2023 mean that parties now need to file annual financial statements with the Commission, in addition to donations loans and expenditure reporting. Depending on the legal status of the party, the timing of when the statement is due will differ.

If you have not already provided to the Commission, please could you let us know:

- Is the party an incorporated society or unincorporated body?
- If the party is an incorporated society, when is the annual financial statement provided to the Registrar of Incorporated Societies?
- If the party is not an incorporated society, but has a date under the party constitution by which statements must be prepared, what is that date?
- Does the party constitution or any enactment require an auditor's report on the annual financial statement?

### **Section 71A declaration and accompanying information**

The deadline for the annual statutory declaration that you are required to make under section 71A of the Electoral Act 1993 is **30 April 2024**. The declaration must:

- a. *state that the party intends, at general elections—*
  - (i) *to submit a list of candidates under section 127; or*
  - (ii) *to have 1 or more constituency candidates stand for the party or for a related political party; or*
  - (iii) *both; and*
- b. *state whether the party has at least 500 current financial members who are eligible to enrol as electors.*

Template forms for making the statutory declaration are attached. Two versions of the form are available, depending on whether you wish to complete the details electronically or manually.

### **Ensuring accuracy of party membership**

As well as the requirement to file an annual declaration under section 71A, section 67(3)(d) requires party secretaries to notify the Commission if the number of current financial members who are eligible to enrol as electors falls below 500. 'Current financial member' is defined in section 3 of the Electoral Act as follows:

*current financial member, in relation to a political party, means a member of the party—*

- a. *whose membership of the party resulted from an application made by a member to join the party; and*
- b. *who is, under the party's rules, subject to an obligation to pay to the party a membership fee—*
  - (i) *on becoming a member; and*
  - (ii) *then at specified intervals of not more than 3 years; and*
- c. *who has paid to the party every membership fee that has for the time being become payable by the member in accordance with those rules.*

The Commission wishes to satisfy itself that each registered political party maintains policies, systems, and records that allow its secretary to make reliable statements concerning its membership.

We request that you provide by **30 April 2024** details of the procedures that the party uses to ensure that it maintains an accurate membership total for the purposes of the Electoral Act. In providing your response, please separately address each of the following questions:

- How many current financial members who are eligible to enrol as electors does the party have as at 1 April 2024? If you are only willing to provide this information to the Commission on the provision it is kept confidential, you should specify this in your response. This information will not be made public nor will it be released in response to a request under the Official Information Act 1982 unless the Commission is required to do so.
- Under the party's rules, how often is a membership fee payable?
- How and where within the party are membership applications, renewals and associated fees processed and recorded? Please provide details of the processes followed and a sample membership/renewal form.
- As party secretary, how often do you receive or obtain updated information on the number of current financial members the party has?
- How are members aged under 18 years excluded from the count?
- What other steps does the party take to ensure that members included in the count are, and remain, eligible to enrol as an elector, including members who are outside New Zealand?
- How is the count made that reliably includes only those members fitting the definition of "current financial member eligible to enrol as an elector"?
- How does the party ensure that the same individual is not counted twice as a member through, for instance,

membership of two branches?

- What management or audit systems exist to ensure that any regionally/electorate-based membership systems/counts are reliably maintained?
- How is the termination of membership (including expiry of membership, resignations or deaths of members) processed, by whom, and how quickly after terminating event?

#### **Party registration information**

Please check the Register of Political Parties (available [here](#)) and notify the Commission if any of the information contained on the register needs updating.

The Electoral Act requires you to inform the Commission of changes, including:

- name and contact details for the party secretary (section 67(3))
- names of any component political parties (section 67(3))
- changes to the party membership and candidate selection rules. A copy of the party membership and candidate selection rules must be supplied to the Commission within one month of them being amended (section 71B).
- appointment of auditor, auditor contact details, and new auditor's signed consent to the appointment (section 206J). Any proposed changes to the appointment of the party auditor should be notified promptly so we can confirm their eligibility with Chartered Accountants Australia and New Zealand.

#### **Party secretary vacancies**

You are reminded that section 67AA of the Electoral Act requires a registered party to appoint a party secretary or acting party secretary within 5 working days of a vacancy arising, to remain registered.

We recommend parties lodge their compliance documents via the [Party Portal](#) or email to [legal@elections.govt.nz](mailto:legal@elections.govt.nz). Please contact one of us in the Legal & Policy Team if you have queries about any of these matters.

Ngā mihi

Kristina Temel

**Kristina Temel** | Manager, Legal and Policy | **Electoral Commission** | Te Kaitiaki Take Kōwhiri

PO Box 3220 | Level 10, 34 – 42 Manners Street | Wellington | 6140

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



**From:** Secretary Te Pati Māori <[secretary@maoriparty.org.nz](mailto:secretary@maoriparty.org.nz)>

**Sent:** Monday, April 24, 2023 12:05 AM

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

Kia Ora Benjamin,

Please find attached an updated version of Te Pāti Māori Rules and Constitution for your records (amended earlier this year).

See my comments below.

Please contact me if you have any queries.

Ngā Mihi

**Lance Norman**

**Secretary**

**Te Pāti Māori**

Moblie: [REDACTED]

On Fri, 24 Feb 2023 at 14:23, Benjamin [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@elections.govt.nz> wrote:

Kia ora Lance

Below is another email you may have missed if the registered email address was not correct. It contains some important information about new legal requirements for parties, and requires confirmation by return email of some details.

Cheers

Benjamin

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**From:** Benjamin [REDACTED]

**Sent:** Tuesday, January 31, 2023 10:57 AM

**To:** [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@maoriparty.org.nz](mailto:[REDACTED]@maoriparty.org.nz)>

**Subject:** Confirmation needed - party financial statements

Kia ora Lance

As we mentioned at the end of 2022, we need to confirm the category your party falls into for the purposes of the new requirements to provide financial statements to the Electoral Commission.

The way the rules apply depends on whether the party is an incorporated society, and what its own constitution or rules require.

We have read the version of the party's constitution or rules filed with the Commission. The new provisions in the Act and how we propose to categorise your party is set out below. Please confirm or correct this, as necessary, by emailing me back as soon as possible.

***Provision***

***Application to party***

**A)** If the party is an incorporated society, when is the annual financial statement provided to the Registrar of Incorporated Societies? A copy should be provided to the Electoral Commission at the same time, and no later than 6 months from the balance date.

**Te Pāti Māori is an Incorporated Society.**

**Financial Statements are due to be provided to the Registrar of Incorporated Societies 6 months after Balance Date. We will also send a copy to the Electoral Commission at the same time these are filed. Te Pāti Māori balance date is 31 December.**

**B)** If the party is not an incorporated society, but has a date under the party constitution by which statements must be prepared, what is that date? A copy should be provided to the Electoral Commission within 6 months of the balance date.

**N/A**

Where neither A or B above applies the default deadline for providing the annual financial statement to the Electoral Commission is 30 September each year. Parties in this category must apply [generally accepted accounting practice](#) (GAAP) and include the details specified in s 210G(3) of the Electoral Act 1993.

**N/A**

Does the party constitution or any enactment require an auditor's report on the annual financial statement? If so, this must be provided at the same time as the statements are provided to the Commission.

**Party rules require audit of Financial Statements.**

The party's deadline for annual financial statements and whether an audit report on the annual financial statement is required will be added to the register of political parties which is published on [www.elections.nz](http://www.elections.nz). We aim to publish this in March 2023.

As a reminder, the first statements that are due will be those for periods from 1 January 2023 onwards. Statements covering 2022 or part of 2022 are not required.

We look forward to hearing from you.

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](http://vote.nz) | [elections.nz](http://elections.nz)

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**From:** EC Legal <[legal@Elections.govt.nz](mailto:legal@Elections.govt.nz)>

**Sent:** Wednesday, June 26, 2024 3:35 PM

**Subject:** Reminder for parties whose financial statements are due by 30 June 2024

Kia ora party secretary

A quick reminder the deadline for you to file your annual financial statement is 30 June 2024. As this is on a Sunday the legal deadline is by 5pm on 1 July. Your financial statement, and audit report as applicable, can be uploaded via the Party Portal, emailed to [legal@elections.govt.nz](mailto:legal@elections.govt.nz) or delivered to the Commission's office at Level 4, 34-42 Manners Street, Wellington.

We are planning to publish financial statements due by 30 June by the end of next week here: [Annual financial statements | Elections](#). As with other compliance reporting, we will publish a short media item on our website when the financial statements are published.

Ngā mihi

**Kristina Temel** | Manager, Legal and Policy | **Electoral Commission** | Te Kaitiaki Take Kōwhiri

PO Box 3220 | Level 10, 34 – 42 Manners Street | Wellington | 6140

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**From:** EC Legal

**Sent:** Tuesday, July 2, 2024 2:36 PM

**To:** Secretary Te Pati Māori <secretary@maoriparty.org.nz>

**Subject:** RE: Reminder for parties whose financial statements are due by 30 June 2024

Kia ora Lance

The statutory deadline for filing your annual financial statements was 1 July 2024. According to our records to date you have not submitted the financial statements by this date.

Could you please provide us an update on the progress of Te Pāti Māori's annual financial statements and if you have any questions about the requirements, or you want to provide further information about why you have not filed your financial statements by the due date, please email the Legal and Policy team at the Electoral Commission at [legal@elections.govt.nz](mailto:legal@elections.govt.nz).

You need to be aware that it is an offence not to file annual financial statements by the due date without reasonable excuse.

We will be publishing financial statements due by 1 July later this week.

If the Electoral Commission has not received your annual financial statements and a satisfactory explanation of the reasons why it is overdue by 5pm, 15 July 2024, the matter may have to be referred to the Police.

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

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**From:** Secretary Te Pati Māori <[secretary@maoriparty.org.nz](mailto:secretary@maoriparty.org.nz)>

**Sent:** Friday, July 5, 2024 2:19 PM

**To:** EC Legal <[legal@Elections.govt.nz](mailto:legal@Elections.govt.nz)>

**Subject:** Re: Reminder for parties whose financial statements are due by 30 June 2024

Kia Ora Benjamin,

Te Pāti Māori, as an Unincorporated Society has not previously had a statutory obligation to file financial statements (prior to Electoral Commission changes).

With the Electoral Commission adding this requirement effective 2024, we are now needing to go back and reconcile previous years in order to file current year financial statements.

This retrospective process has unfortunately taken longer than we had anticipated so are currently not yet in a position to forward current years financial statements to the Electoral Commission.

Once these have been fully completed and audited we will forward to you for public disclosure.

Please contact me if you have any queries.

Ngā Mihi

**Lance Norman**

**Secretary**

**Te Pāti Māori**

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**From:** Benjamin [REDACTED]

**Sent:** Monday, July 8, 2024 10:00 AM

**To:** Secretary Te Pati Māori <[secretary@maoriparty.org.nz](mailto:secretary@maoriparty.org.nz)>

**Subject:** RE: Reminder for parties whose financial statements are due by 30 June 2024

Kia ora Lance



Thanks for your email. Per the attached, you had advised that the party was incorporated and so forwarding the same statements to us as to the Registrar. It would be good to clarify which category the party falls into, and it is important to let us know if this changes. Could you please advise.

Note the new requirements are imposed by Parliament through a law change.

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

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**From:** Benjamin [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, July 19, 2024 11:40 AM  
**To:** Secretary Te Pati Māori <[secretary@maoriparty.org.nz](mailto:secretary@maoriparty.org.nz)>  
**Subject:** RE: Reminder for parties whose financial statements are due by 30 June 2024

Kia ora Lance

You have said that you need to do some further work before you can file the annual financial statement that was due 1 July 2024. Can you please provide an update on the progress of Te Pāti Māori's annual financial statements and indicate when you expect to be able to provide the annual financial statements and the accompanying audit report. Please email the Legal and Policy team at the Electoral Commission at [legal@elections.govt.nz](mailto:legal@elections.govt.nz).

Because it is an offence not to file annual financial statements by the due date without reasonable excuse, we need to consider whether there is a reasonable excuse and if not whether the matter must be referred to the Police.

Please provide an update on progress by 5pm Wednesday 24 July providing any further comments that you would like considered.

Ngā mihi

**Benjamin** [REDACTED] ([he/him](#)) | Senior Policy Advisor | Legal and Policy  
Electoral Commission | Te Kaitiaki Take Kōwhiri

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## FILE NOTE

Conversation between Karl Le Quesne, CEO, and Lance Norman, Party Secretary for Te Pāti Māori - Monday 5 August

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“I contacted Lance Norman yesterday to get an update on the amended candidate return to include the cost of a van, and when their annual financial return will be lodged.

Lance said he was seeking information from the candidate and would submit an amended return as soon as possible.

He also said they were reviewing past financial years before finalising the financial return they are required to lodge with us. He said he would send us an update on the timeline after talking to their accountants.

I will check in with you in a few days to see how that is progressing.

Ngā mihi

Karl Le Quesne”

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**From:** Karl Le Quesne <[REDACTED]@elections.govt.nz>

**Sent:** Wednesday, August 21, 2024 5:48 PM

**To:** Lance Norman <[secretary@maoriparty.org.nz](mailto:secretary@maoriparty.org.nz)>

**Subject:** Financial statement and candidate return

Kia ora Lance

Following our conversation on 5 August 2024, it would be good to get an update on the party's outstanding annual financial statement and the amended candidate return for Takutai Tarsh Kemp.

When we spoke, you said that you were seeking information from the candidate and would submit an amended return as soon as possible. Can you advise on the progress with this and when the amended return is going to be lodged? It is important that this is addressed as soon as possible to reflect the costs of the van as an election expense to correct the omission from the return that has been filed.

When we talked, you said that the party needed to review past financial years before finalising the financial return that must be lodged. Can you please provide an update on how you are progressing and when it will be lodged. Given the statutory deadline for filing the party's annual financial statements was 1 July 2024, I need to continue to consider whether or not the matter must be referred on.

I look forward to your response. If you have any questions about the requirements, please let me know.

Ngā mihi

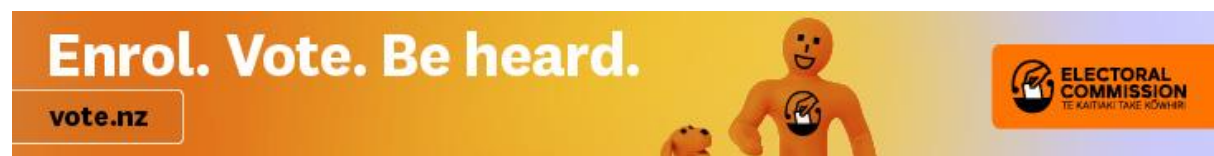
Karl Le Quesne

**Karl Le Quesne** (He/Him) | Chief Electoral Officer

**Electoral Commission | Te Kaitiaki Take Kōwhiri**

PO Box 3220 | 34-42 Manners Street | Wellington

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4 September 2024

Lance Norman  
Party Secretary

[secretary@maoriparty.org.nz](mailto:secretary@maoriparty.org.nz)

Tēnā kōe Lance

**FINANCIAL STATEMENTS DUE 30 JUNE 2024**

The Electoral Commission's board has discussed next steps in relation to the failure to file Te Pāti Māori's annual financial statement on 30 June.

Given these reporting requirements in the law are new, and in light of the steps you have said you need to undertake in order to prepare the statements, we ask that you file those statements with the Electoral Commission by 1 October 2024. This would have provided you 3 months from the due date in order to resolve this matter.

We spoke on 5 August 2024 and you said that the party needed to review past financial years before finalising the financial return that must be lodged. We subsequently emailed you but did not receive a response. Can you please provide an update on how you are progressing and when the financial statements will be lodged?

After 1 October 2024, the Commission will need to again consider whether this matter should be referred to Police, so that they can determine whether the failure to file constitutes offending.

Kind regards



Karl Le Quesne  
Chief Electoral Officer

4 October 2024

Lance Norman  
Party Secretary  
Te Pāti Māori

By email to:

[secretary@maoriparty.org.nz](mailto:secretary@maoriparty.org.nz)

Tēnā kōe Lance

**MATTER REFERRED TO POLICE -TE PĀTI MĀORI FAILURE TO FILE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

1. We have been in contact about the timeframe for providing the financial statements required by the Electoral Act 1993 and which were due on 30 June 2024.
2. In our prior correspondence we have sought updates and provided until 1 October 2024, when would need to again consider this apparent breach of the Electoral Act and whether the matter should be referred to Police.
3. Annual financial statement requirements came into effect on 1 January 2023. Parliament provided a significant lead-time before parties had to file their financial statements starting 30 June 2024. Information on the new requirements was made available from December 2023 and the Commission contacted you about the requirements on a number of occasions, discussing with you the information needed to determine which category the party was in for the application of the requirements.
4. On 24 February 2023 you advised that the party was an incorporated society with a balance date of 31 December, as well as an audit requirement, for its financial statements. This placed Te Pāti Māori in the category provided by s 210G(1) of the Electoral Act 1993, meaning the secretary must provide a copy of the party's annual financial statements to the Electoral Commission on the same date as they are given to the Registrar of Incorporated Societies and no later than 6 months from their balance date.
5. Under section 210H when providing a copy of the party's annual financial statements, the party must also provide a copy of the auditor's report obtained on the statements.
6. As discussed, the party's stated balance date of 31 December placed it among the first round of parties required to file statements by 30 June 2024.
7. We advised you on 2 July 2024 that the deadline had passed, and we requested an explanation. On 5 July 2024 you responded that you thought the party was unincorporated and that the process of reconciling and preparing financial statements was taking longer than expected.
8. Between this date and 4 September we provided further reminders and the Chief Electoral Officer spoke to you on the phone. Our 4 September letter provided until 1 October 2024 and sought an update from you. No response was received from you by 1 October.

9. Section 210J of the Act provides that:
- a party secretary commits a corrupt practice if, without reasonable excuse, they provide the party's financial statements to the Commission after the late period (15 working days from the deadline), and
  - a party secretary commits an offence subject to a fine up to \$40,000 if they, without reasonable excuse, provide the statement to the Commission within the late period.
10. The Commission has now decided to refer this matter to Police, so that they can determine whether the above apparent breach constitutes offending.
11. In making this decision, we have given regard to the extra time we have afforded you and the updates we have sought but not received. Parliament has provided it is a serious offence not to file financial statements by the end of the late period.
12. Attached is a copy of a brief notice which the Commission will publish on its website at 3pm today, 4 October, noting we have referred this to Police. As the matter is now with Police, the Commission will not be commenting on the matter further.
13. If you wish to discuss this matter you could contact Police directly. In referring this matter to Police we have made relevant correspondence and information available to them.

Ngā mihi



Karl Le Quesne  
Chief Electoral Officer

#### Attachments

1. Web notice

**Web notice 4/10/24**

Referral to Police

A referral has been made to Police on 4 October 2024 relating to Te Pāti Māori's failure to file annual financial statements with the Electoral Commission. The financial statements and accompanying audit report were due on 30 June 2024 under sections 210G and 210H of the Electoral Act.

As this matter is now with the Police, the Electoral Commission will not be commenting further.

**From:** [Secretary Te Pati Māori](#)  
**To:** Benjamin [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [Kristina Temel](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Outstanding audit report for financial statements  
**Date:** Wednesday, 12 February 2025 11:55:58 am  
**Attachments:** [image001.jpg](#)

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**EXTERNAL EMAIL WARNING:** Do not open any **attachments** or **links** until you are certain they are safe. Beware of **phishing** attacks, check the sender address. Always report emails you are not certain are safe.

Kia Ora Korua,

I contacted BDO Rotorua last week.

They confirmed they are still working through the audit (there have been no notifications by them of changes to the version you have on file).

I will ring them again and provide an update.

Please contact me if you have any queries.

Ngā Mihi

**Lance Norman**

**Secretary**

**Te Pāti Māori**

Moblie: [REDACTED]

On Mon, 3 Feb 2025 at 10:21, Benjamin [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@elections.govt.nz](#)> wrote:

Kia ora Lance

I hope you are doing well. Could we please get an update from you about the progress of this audit report, and when we can expect to receive it?

Look forward to hearing from you.

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

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**From:** Benjamin [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 17 December 2024 3:06 pm  
**To:** Secretary Te Pati Māori <[secretary@maoriparty.org.nz](mailto:secretary@maoriparty.org.nz)>  
**Cc:** Kristina Temel <[\[REDACTED\]@elections.govt.nz](mailto:[REDACTED]@elections.govt.nz)>  
**Subject:** RE: Reminder for parties whose financial statements are due by 30 June 2024

Kia ora Lance

The financial statements will be published [here](#) this afternoon, with a note the audit report has not yet been received. We have also provided Police with what has been filed so far.

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

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**From:** Benjamin [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, 16 December 2024 5:18 pm  
**To:** Secretary Te Pati Māori <[secretary@maoriparty.org.nz](mailto:secretary@maoriparty.org.nz)>  
**Cc:** Kristina Temel <[\[REDACTED\]@elections.govt.nz](mailto:[REDACTED]@elections.govt.nz)>  
**Subject:** RE: Reminder for parties whose financial statements are due by 30 June 2024

Kia ora Lance

I can confirm receipt of your email and attachment. We will be in touch after review and before any publication.

Ngā mihi

**Benjamin** (he/him) | Senior Policy Advisor | Legal and Policy  
Electoral Commission | Te Kaitiaki Take Kōwhiri

PO Box 3220 | Level 4, 34-42 Manners Street | Wellington

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**From:** Secretary Te Pati Māori <[secretary@maoriparty.org.nz](mailto:secretary@maoriparty.org.nz)>  
**Sent:** Monday, 16 December 2024 4:12 pm  
**To:** Karl Le Quesne <[karl@elections.govt.nz](mailto:karl@elections.govt.nz)>  
**Cc:** John Tamihere <[john@waiwhanau.com](mailto:john@waiwhanau.com)>; EC Legal <[legal@Elections.govt.nz](mailto:legal@Elections.govt.nz)>  
**Subject:** Reminder for parties whose financial statements are due by 30 June 2024

**EXTERNAL EMAIL WARNING:** Do not open any **attachments** or **links** until you are certain they are safe. Beware of **phishing** attacks, check the sender address. Always report emails you are not certain are safe.

Kia Ora Karl,

Please find attached the Financial Statements for Te Pāti Māori for the year ended 31st December 2023.

I regret that there has been a delay in getting these to you. As indicated a few months back, we had some challenges bringing earlier years up to date in order to prepare the 2023 Financial Statements. This has finally come to an end point today with all historical financial statements including 2023 being now completed.

We are yet to receive the Audit Report as these have only been recently sent through to our Auditors, BDO Rotorua and they are working through their standard audit process.

Our view was to send you the unaudited accounts as a placeholder to give you visibility of the numbers, and then replace these with audited accounts once received from BDO.

As soon as these have been fully audited, I will forward the final versions to you.

Please contact me if you have any queries.

Ngā Mihi

**Lance Norman**

**Secretary**

**Te Pāti Māori**

Moblie: [REDACTED]

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Secretary Te Pati Māori** <[secretary@maoriparty.org.nz](mailto:secretary@maoriparty.org.nz)>

Date: Fri, 5 Jul 2024 at 14:19

Subject: Re: Reminder for parties whose financial statements are due by 30 June 2024

To: EC Legal <[legal@elections.govt.nz](mailto:legal@elections.govt.nz)>

Kia Ora Benjamin,

Te Pāti Māori, as an Unincorporated Society has not previously had a statutory obligation to file financial statements (prior to Electoral Commission changes).

With the Electoral Commission adding this requirement effective 2024, we are now needing to go back and reconcile previous years in order to file current year financial statements.

This retrospective process has unfortunately taken longer than we had anticipated so are currently not yet in a position to forward current years financial statements to the Electoral Commission.

Once these have been fully completed and audited we will forward to you for public disclosure.

Please contact me if you have any queries.

Ngā Mihi

**Lance Norman**

**Secretary**

**Te Pāti Māori**

Moblie: [REDACTED]

On Tue, 2 Jul 2024 at 14:36, EC Legal <[legal@elections.govt.nz](mailto:legal@elections.govt.nz)> wrote:

Kia ora Lance

The statutory deadline for filing your annual financial statements was 1 July 2024. According to our records to date you have not submitted the financial statements by this date.

Could you please provide us an update on the progress of Te Pāti Māori's annual financial statements and if you have any questions about the requirements, or you want to provide further information about why you have not filed your financial statements by the due date, please email the Legal and Policy team at the Electoral

Commission at [legal@elections.govt.nz](mailto:legal@elections.govt.nz).

You need to be aware that it is an offence not to file annual financial statements by the due date without reasonable excuse.

We will be publishing financial statements due by 1 July later this week.

If the Electoral Commission has not received your annual financial statements and a satisfactory explanation of the reasons why it is overdue by 5pm, 15 July 2024, the matter may have to be referred to the Police.

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](#)



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**From:** EC Legal <[legal@Elections.govt.nz](mailto:legal@Elections.govt.nz)>

**Sent:** Wednesday, June 26, 2024 3:35 PM

**Subject:** Reminder for parties whose financial statements are due by 30 June 2024

Kia ora party secretary

A quick reminder the deadline for you to file your annual financial statement is 30 June 2024. As this is on a Sunday the legal deadline is by 5pm on 1 July. Your financial statement, and audit report as applicable, can be uploaded via the Party Portal, emailed to [legal@elections.govt.nz](mailto:legal@elections.govt.nz) or delivered to the Commission's office at Level 4, 34-42 Manners Street, Wellington.

We are planning to publish financial statements due by 30 June by the end of next week here: [Annual financial statements | Elections](#). As with other compliance reporting, we will publish a short media item on our website

when the financial statements are published.

Ngā mihi

**Kristina Temel** | Manager, Legal and Policy | **Electoral Commission** | Te Kaitiaki Take Kōwhiri

PO Box 3220 | Level 10, 34 – 42 Manners Street | Wellington | 6140

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



# Party Secretary Update

Issue 23, December 2022

## KIA ORA

We have a lot to update you on as we near the end of 2022, including some important information about legislative changes that will apply for next year's general election, with some proposals still awaiting final decisions in Parliament.

We are in the final stages of preparing the first tranche of election year guidance for parties and candidates, including the Candidate Handbook and updated guidance and forms in the Party Portal. Read on for more information.

At the end of October we opened the Election Access Fund Te Tomokanga - Pūtea Whakatapoko Pōtitangato. Find out more on page three of this update.

The Hamilton-West by-election is on Saturday 10 December. You can find a reminder of key dates for the results and returns on page two.

Please get in touch with the team if you have any questions. Wishing you an enjoyable and relaxing holiday break.

Ka kite ano

**Kristina Temel**

Manager Legal and Policy



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## Contact details

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Requests for roll data: [data@elections.govt.nz](mailto:data@elections.govt.nz)

## Hamilton West By-election

Voting for the Hamilton West by-election started on Monday 28 November in eight advance voting places. The number of voting places will increase in the run up to election day, with 20 voting places open on Saturday 10 December. You can view voting places and their opening hours on our interactive mapping [here](#).

A reminder of the rules during the voting period and on election day can be found [here](#).

Key dates for the by-election are as follows:

Friday, 9 December	All political advertising ceases and election signs taken down by midnight Last day for overseas voters to enrol
Saturday, 10 December	Election day, voting places open from 9am to 7pm Preliminary results available progressively from 7pm via <a href="#">electionresults.nz</a>
Wednesday, 21 December	Official results
Monday, 16 January	Deadline for applications for judicial recount
Tuesday, 17 January	Return of writ naming successful candidate (assuming no recount)
Wednesday, 12 April	Deadline for filing candidate returns of donations and expenses

## Legislation update

The [Electoral \(Māori Electoral Option\) Legislation Act 2022](#) received royal assent on 18 November 2022 and means changes to the Māori Electoral Option will come into effect on 31 March 2023.

From this date electors of Māori descent will be able to change roll type at any time, other than:

- in the three months before a general election and the triennial local elections, and
- into an electorate where a parliamentary by-election is being held (from notice of vacancy until after the by-election).

We are in the process of updating our IT systems, forms and processes in readiness for 31 March.

In April next year we will begin advertising and

engagement activities about the changes to the Option. We will also send a personalised mailout about the Option to everyone who has identified themselves as being of Māori descent when they enrolled to vote.

The Electoral Amendment Bill 2022 was reported back by the Justice Committee on 1 December. You can track progress of the Bill [here](#).

Subject to final parliamentary stages, changes to the electoral finance rules provided in the Bill are due to come into force on 1 January 2023. Temporary changes to overseas elector eligibility are due to come into force on 31 March and expire one month after the latest day for the return of the writ for the 2023 General Election.

Updated guidance and forms will be available for you in the Party Portal after the legislation is passed. To help explain what's new for the electoral finance rules a summary of the proposed changes is provided at page four of this update.

On other electoral legislation, the [Electoral \(Right to Switch Rolls Freely\) Amendment Bill](#) did not pass its first reading on 9 November 2022.

## Recent cases

On 21 November the Supreme Court issued its judgment for [Make It 16 Inc v AG \[2022\] NZSC 134](#). The Supreme Court has declared it is inconsistent with the Bill of Rights Act 1990 (BORA) to prevent 16 and 17-year-olds from voting.

The New Zealand Bill of Rights (Declarations of Inconsistency) Amendment Act 2022 provides a new process for the Government and House of Representatives to respond to a declaration of inconsistency under BORA. The process involves:

- a declaration of inconsistency being referred to a select committee;
- the select committee considering and reporting on the declaration within four months; and
- a debate in the House of Representatives on the declaration, the select committee report, and the Government's response to the declaration.

The Government has also signalled a Bill on the voting age will be drafted.

The full judgment of [R v Zhang & Ors \[2022\] NZHC 2541](#) and sentencing decisions [R v Zhang & Ors \[2022\] NZHC 3168](#) of the High Court were issued on 30 November. These decisions related to investigations by the Serious Fraud Office (SFO) into party donations made in 2017 and 2018.

The SFO has sought leave to appeal the decision of the High Court in [R v EF and FG \[2022\] NZHC 1755](#). The High Court made findings in relation to the meaning of the definition of party donation. Changes have subsequently been included to the definition of party donation in the current Electoral Amendment Bill 2022 - see page 4 for more information.

## Electoral reviews

On 28 October the Future of Local Government Review | Te Arotake i te Anamata mō Ngā Kaunihera released their [draft report](#). The report makes a number of draft recommendations about local elections. They are currently consulting on the draft recommendations and submissions can be made until 28 February 2023. Their final report is due in June 2023. You can find out more at [futureforlocalgovernment.govt.nz](https://futureforlocalgovernment.govt.nz).

The first phase of consultation closed on 14 November for the Independent Electoral Review | He Arotake Pōtitanga Motuhake. Their interim report is due in May 2023 with draft recommendations, with their final recommendations scheduled for November 2023. You can find out more at [electoralreview.govt.nz](https://electoralreview.govt.nz).

## Party news

On 12 October the Commission approved the registration of Democracy NZ and their party logo.

On 21 October, the Commission declared Soraya Peke-Mason to be elected to Parliament from the New Zealand Labour Party list following the resignation of Rt Hon Trevor Mallard. Soraya Peke-Mason's election means the House currently has more MPs who are women (60) than men (59) for the first time.

We recently added [Current party and logo applications](#) as a page to elections.nz. This page provides visibility of applications received and the stage of each application. Going forward, we will also publish a news item on our [Media & News feed](#) when an application is received as well as when we consult on party names and logos.

We are currently consulting on the party name Freedoms New Zealand party (abbreviation Freedoms NZ). The deadline for comments is 5pm, Friday 9 December.

The New Nation Party registration application received on 19 October is not yet open for consultation.

Party logo applications cannot be processed while there is a by-election underway. We will be able to continue processing logo applications for Freedoms New Zealand, New Conservative and TOP after the writ is returned for the Hamilton West by-election, on 17 January 2023.

Please also note we are planning on adding an updated application form and Party Registration Handbook to [elections.nz](https://elections.nz) before the end of this year.

## Election Access Fund

On 31 October we opened the Election Access Fund Te Tomokanga - Pūtea Whakatapoko Pōtitangato to support disabled candidates to participate in parliamentary elections.

Disabled people seeking selection or standing as a candidate in a parliamentary general election or by-election can apply for a grant from the Fund to help cover their costs.

The Fund can be used to pay for disability related costs during selection or campaigning, for example accessible transport to events or meetings, or specialist equipment.

As mentioned in previous updates, the Commission consulted with disabled people, disabled people's organisations, political parties, and other interested groups, before finalising how the Fund would be managed.

Information on the eligibility criteria and how to apply for funding is available online and in alternate formats at [elections.nz](https://elections.nz). People can apply by completing an application form online or by calling the Election Access Fund team.

We have an independent panel of disabled people with extensive knowledge of access needs to advise us whether an application meets the criteria and is fair and reasonable before a decision is made on funding.

Candidates seeking selection and your confirmed candidates can get more information by emailing [electionaccessfund@elections.govt.nz](mailto:electionaccessfund@elections.govt.nz), calling 0800 36 76 56 or visiting [elections.nz](https://elections.nz).

## Holiday closedown

Our offices close at close of business on Friday 23 December 2022.

Staff return from 9 January and public facing business will recommence on Monday 16 January 2023.

## Election year guidance

We are in the final stages of updating our guidance for election year. We will send party secretaries an email when the updated Candidate Handbook for the 2023 General Election and guidance in the Party Portal go live.



## Quick guide to proposed electoral finance changes

Proposed changes to the electoral finance rules will come into force on 1 January 2023, subject to final stages in Parliament. We are planning for updated guidance to be made available to parties at the end of the year for 1 January. The current rules, for example, reporting donations over \$30,000, continue to apply up to 31 December 2022.

Annual returns due on 1 May 2023, which cover the 2022 calendar year, are not affected by any changes to the electoral finance rules. We will let you know when the annual return forms and representation letter are available in the Party Portal in the New Year.

The table below sets out the key electoral finance changes proposed in the Electoral Amendment Bill 2022.

Change	What this means
Lowering the public disclosure threshold for donations and contributions to political parties from \$15,000 to \$5,000	Parties need to disclose the name and address of donors and contributors who give more than \$5,000 in a calendar year in Parts A and B of party returns filed by 30 April 2024 for the 2023 calendar year, and onwards.
Amending the reporting requirements for donations from the same donor over \$30,000 (either in one lump sum or in total over the preceding year) by reducing the threshold to \$20,000, but requiring disclosure within 10 working days only in a general election year	New reporting of party donations over \$20,000 within 10 working days only applies to donations received from 1 January to the day before polling day. Donations received prior to 1 January are not included. No immediate disclosure of donations over \$20,000 in non-election years. A new return form for reporting donations over \$20,000 will be available via the Party Portal.
Requiring parties to report the number and total donations under \$1,500 that are not made anonymously	No change to record keeping, as this information has to be kept by parties already. Additional reporting in Part G of party returns filed by 30 April 2024 for the 2023 financial year, and onwards.
Requiring the annual return of party donations to separately state the total amount of monetary and in-kind donations received	Parties need to develop new processes to distinguish between monetary donations and in-kind donations (for example, goods or services) given from 1 January 2023. Separate reporting of the total amounts received as monetary and in-kind donations in party returns filed by 30 April 2024 for the 2023 financial year, and onwards.
Requiring parties to disclose their financial statements	We will ask parties early in 2023 when their financial statements will be due in 2024, and onwards. The due date will be included on the Register of Parties. Financial statements will need to be filed by the due date for each party's annual reporting period starting after 1 January 2023. Financial reports due from 2024 onwards will be published on the Commission's website.
Changes to annual donations and loan audit requirements	For annual returns due 2024 onwards, parties that have donations totalling \$50,000 or less and no loans will not be required to have their annual return of donations and loans audited. The changes do not apply to annual returns due 1 May 2023, which must be audited. No changes have been made to audit requirements for party election expense and broadcasting returns, which must be audited.
Change to definition of party donation to include a donation to any person or body of persons if there are reasonable grounds to believe that the donation is intended for the benefit of the party	No procedural changes for parties. Important for party secretaries to understand that donations to any other person for the party's benefit are a party donation.
Requiring candidates to publicly report on loans received to support their campaigns.	Applies to any candidate loan of any amount taken out from 1 January 2023 for a candidate's campaign. The Candidate Handbook and the candidate return form for the 2023 General Election will set out the new requirements for reporting candidate loans.

# Party Secretary Update

Issue 24, February 2023

## KIA ORA

Welcome to the first party secretary update for 2023.

With the announcement of the date for the 2023 General Election, this update provides a reminder of key dates for parties for election year. You'll find more information in the Party Portal.

The Candidate Handbook for the 2023 General Election was published at the end of 2022 on elections.nz. The Third Party Handbook is now also available on elections.nz, and all MPs have recently been sent the MP Handbook. More information about election year guidance, including the Party Secretary briefing can be found in this update.

The deadline for parties to notify us that they want to be considered for the broadcasting allocation is 5pm, 1 March 2023. Find out more on page 3 about the broadcasting allocation.

As always, please get in touch with the team if you have any questions.

Ka kite ano

**Kristina Temel**

**Manager Legal and Policy**



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Election year guidance  
Hamilton West By-election  
Legislation update  
Māori Electoral Option  
Broadcasting allocation  
Party news  
Annual compliance  
Financial statements

## Contact details

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Requests for roll data: [data@elections.govt.nz](mailto:data@elections.govt.nz)

## General Election timetable

On 19 January the Prime Minister announced that the 2023 General Election will be held on 14 October.

Now the date has been announced, key dates for party secretaries in the next few months are set out below:

1 March	Deadline for parties to notify eligibility for broadcasting allocation.
24 March	Deadline for parties' written submissions on the broadcasting allocation.
14 April	From this date Parliament can decide not to hold a by-election before the general election.
20 April	Briefing for all party secretaries, covering the key dates and what's changed for this election.  You'll also be able to hear from the Advertising Standards Authority, the Broadcasting Standards Authority and the Media Council about their role in relation to election material.
1 July	Expenditure limits fixed for the election.
14 July	The regulated period begins and expense limits for the election apply.
12 August	Election hoardings can go up subject to local authority rules about their location.
28 August	You can start entering your candidates into the online system used to submit your electorate candidate and list candidate nominations.
8 Sept	Last day for registration of parties, names or logos.
10 Sept	Writ day
14 Sept	Noon deadline for bulk nomination of electorate candidates and party lists.
15 Sept	Nomination day

More key election dates for the general public are available [here](#).

We'll talk more about important dates for party secretaries at the 20 April briefing.

## Election year guidance

On 1 July each year the spending limits for candidates, parties and third parties for election advertising expenses for the regulated period are adjusted by Order in Council. The current limits, fixed in the [2022 Order](#), will be adjusted from 1 July 2023. We will notify you of changes to the limits once these are confirmed.

Following the passing of the [Electoral Amendment Act 2022](#), updated guidance on election year donations over \$20,000 is available for you in the Party Portal. The new return form for donations over \$20,000 can also be downloaded in the Portal.

We have also produced the following suite of handbooks for participants:

- Candidate Handbook – General Election 2023
- Scrutineer Handbook – General Election 2023
- Third Party Handbook – General Election 2023
- MP Handbook – General Election 2023

Copies or links to the handbooks will soon be available in the Portal.

When we print the Candidate Handbook and the Scrutineer Handbook later this year we'll provide more information about making these available to you and your candidates. Candidates will be able to attend a briefing delivered by their Returning Officer after nominations close.

Nomination forms will be available in the Party Portal in April. Step-by-step guidance on how to enter your candidates into the online nominations system will be provided in the Portal before the system opens on 28 August.

During election year, we will provide you with regular party secretary updates to make sure you have the information you need for the general election.

## Hamilton West By-election

The official results for the Hamilton West by-election were released on 21 December 2022. As there were no applications for a recount, the writ was returned on Tuesday 17 January 2023.

Candidates have been sent the donations and loans return form and have to file their returns by Wednesday 12 April at the latest.

The new rules for candidate loans that came into force on 1 January 2023 do not apply for the Hamilton West by-election.

## Legislation update

Since our December update, the [Electoral Amendment Act 2022](#) received Royal assent on 16 December.

Changes to the electoral finance rules outlined in our December update came into force on 1 January 2023, with financial statements due from 2024.

Temporary changes to overseas elector eligibility come into force on 31 March for the 2023 General Election and expire on 9 December.

## Broadcasting allocation

Parties have until **5pm 1 March** to give us notice of their eligibility for the broadcasting allocation. You can upload your notice via the Portal or send the information by email to [legal@elections.govt.nz](mailto:legal@elections.govt.nz).

We will publish a list of the parties that have given notice after the deadline on [elections.nz](https://elections.nz).

We will contact those parties that give us notice to explain more about the broadcasting allocation and invite them to make a written submission by **24 March** on how the allocation should be made.

Parties will be given an opportunity to speak in support of their submissions on **13 and 14 April**.

We will then publish our allocation decision on **12 May**.

## Party news

We are currently consulting on the party logo application for Freedoms New Zealand, and applications to vary logos for New Conservative and TOP.

Following public consultation in late 2022, Freedoms New Zealand party (abbreviation Freedoms NZ) application for registration is scheduled to be determined by the Commission's Board later this month.

## Annual compliance

We recently emailed you information about your annual compliance documents.

Your annual returns of party loans and donations must be lodged with the Commission by **5pm 1 May 2023**.

Your section 71A statutory declaration and information about party membership is also due on this date.

Get in touch if you need any help completing your annual compliance documentation.

## Māori Electoral Option

Following the passing of the [Electoral \(Māori Electoral Option\) Legislation Act 2022](#), we are busy working on collateral and system changes and planning a nationwide advertising campaign and community engagement for the continuous Māori Electoral Option which comes into force on 31 March 2023.

An information pack, including an Option form, will be sent to all electors of Māori descent in early April. Māori electors will be able to change roll type from 31 March to 13 July using the Option form, an enrolment form or our enrol online service. The exemption period, when the Option can't be exercised runs from 14 July until after the general election.

## Financial statements

Finally, a reminder about the email we recently sent to you about the type of entity your party is, and when financial statements will be due in 2024, and onwards.

If you haven't already responded, please ensure you respond to the email during February.

We will be adding information to the Register of Political Parties in March to show when a party's financial statement will be due.

# Party Secretary Update

Issue 25, May 2023

## KIA ORA

It was great to see so many of you at the party secretary briefing held on 20 April. We hope you found the information helpful, including hearing about the roles the Advertising Standards Authority, Broadcasting Standards Authority and Media Council play for the election.

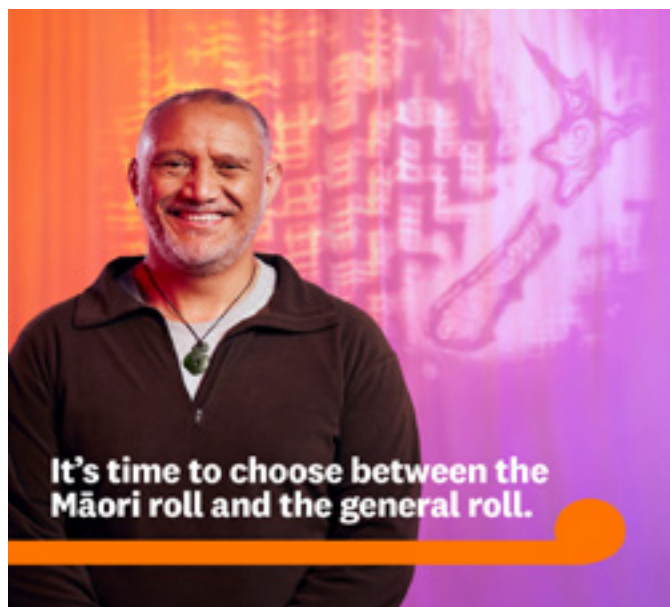
Te Kawa Mataaho Public Service Commission published their general election guidance earlier this year. Their guidance includes advice on government advertising, policy advice and access by political parties to information from the sector during government formation negotiations. You can find their full guidance and a useful summary [here](#).

We are busy providing information and running an advertising campaign about the Māori Electoral Option, which kicked off at the end of March. The number of roll changes and new enrolments can be found on page 2 of this update. Read on for more information about the spending limits for the election, the broadcasting allocation and nominations. The nomination forms parties need for the election are being sent to you with this update and are also in the Portal.

Ka kite ano

**Kristina Temel**

Manager Legal and Policy



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Requests for roll data: [data@elections.govt.nz](mailto:data@elections.govt.nz)

## Hamilton West By-election returns

The returns for the 2022 Hamilton West by-election were due on 12 April 2023.

All of the returns were received on time and can be viewed [here](#).

## Māori Electoral Option

Information packs, including an Option form, were sent to all electors of Māori descent in early April. The pack includes a letter confirming which electoral roll the voter is currently on, and information on how to change rolls if they would like to, from the general roll to the Māori roll, or from the Māori roll to the general roll.

Nationwide advertising and community engagement activity got underway at the start of April and will run through to mid July.

Māori who are already enrolled and want to switch rolls before the general election need to make the change before midnight 13 July using the Option form, an enrolment form or online at [vote.nz](https://vote.nz).

First time voters of Māori descent will be able to enrol and make their roll choice right up to and on election day.

We are regularly publishing [statistics](#) on Māori electors, the number of roll changes and new Māori enrolments between 31 March and 13 July.

From 31 March to 30 April:

- 6,088 people have changed roll types – 3,261 from the general roll to the Māori roll, and 2,827 from the Māori roll to the general roll.
- There have been 298 new enrolments on the Māori roll and 181 new enrolments on the general roll.
- 6,537 people haven't changed rolls but have taken the opportunity to update their details on the electoral roll, for example, their address.

## Broadcasting allocation

17 parties applied for the broadcasting allocation by the 1 March deadline, 15 registered parties and 2 unregistered parties. The list of parties that applied can be found [here](#).

We are planning to publish our allocation decision on **12 May**.

Eligible parties will be able to use the allocation for production and placement costs for advertising that

runs on TV, radio and online during the election period (10 September to 13 October - from writ day to the day before the election).

More information about how the allocation can be used, and how invoices are processed and paid by us will be provided to eligible parties with the allocation decision.

## Expense limits

Spending limits for candidates, parties and third parties for election advertising expenses for the regulated period will change on 1 July.

While the amounts don't come into effect until 1 July, the party and candidate limits will be as follows for the general election:

Limit applies to	Amount
Registered party	\$1,388,000 for parties contesting the party vote plus \$32,600 per electorate contested by candidates for the party
	The limit for a party that contests the party vote and stands electorate candidates in all 72 districts is \$3,735,200
Electorate candidate	\$32,600

## Nominations

With this update we have sent you the following forms:

- **Notice of intention to bulk nominate form** - you need to complete this form if you want to use the bulk nomination process to nominate your electorate candidates. Please fill out this form and return it to us as soon as possible.
- **Consent to nomination form** - your electorate candidates need to complete this form if you are using the bulk nomination process. All list candidates must also complete this form. Joint electorate/list candidates just have to fill out one form for both purposes. You can send us these forms as soon as nominations open.

Nominations open on **Monday 28 August**.

Step-by-step guidance, and an instructional video, on how to enter your candidates into the online nominations system will be provided in the Portal by the beginning of August.

The individual nomination form, used by independent candidates and candidates standing for unregistered parties, will be available as part of the resources in the Candidate Hub at [elections.nz](https://elections.nz) in early June.



## Election Access Fund

On 23 March we launched an advertising campaign for the Election Access Fund Te Tomokanga — Pūtea Whakatapoko Pōtitanga.

The Fund, which has been accepting applications since 31 October 2022, supports disabled people who wish to stand as candidates in parliamentary general elections and by-elections.

The purpose of the fund is to reduce the cost barriers disabled people face by covering those disability-related costs. The Fund covers both those seeking selection to be a candidate, and also those campaigning as a candidate.

Since applications opened last year, we've been raising awareness of the Fund through paid social media advertisements and organic outreach to political parties and disability stakeholders.

## Party news

Since our February update the Commission approved the registration of the following parties and logos:

- Variation of TOP logo on 15 February
- Registration of Freedoms New Zealand (abbreviation Freedoms NZ) on 15 February
- Registration of Freedoms NZ logo on 15 March
- Variation of New Conservative logo on 15 March
- Registration of New Nation Party (abbreviation NNP) and logo on 12 April.

There are no current party or logo applications.

The last date for the Commission to register a variation of a party name or logo is 8 September. You need to allow at least four weeks to make such an application in the run up to the election. For this reason we recommend any variation applications are submitted before the end of July at latest.

## Annual compliance

Party annual returns of donations and loans have all been filed and have been published on [elections.nz](https://elections.nz).

Thank you for your efforts with the returns and membership information, also due on 1 May.

## Financial statements

As we've explained in recent updates, a law change to the Electoral Act means registered parties have to file annual financial statements from 2024 onwards.

We emailed parties earlier this year to confirm their legal status and when their financial statements will be due.

We have now added this information to the Register of Political Parties in readiness for this change coming into force next year.

Please contact [benjamin.baker@elections.govt.nz](mailto:benjamin.baker@elections.govt.nz) if you haven't responded or need to update this information.

## Key dates for the election

Key dates for parties secretaries in the next few months include:

12 May	Broadcasting allocation decision published
Week of 26 to 30 June	Draft voting places provided to party secretaries for comment
1 July	Expenditure limits fixed for the election come into effect
13 July	Last date for Māori electors to change roll type ahead of the general election
14 July	The regulated period begins and expense limits for the election apply
12 August	Election hoardings can go up subject to local authority rules about their location
28 August	You can start entering your candidates into the online system used to submit your electorate candidate and list candidate nominations
8 Sept	Last day for registration of parties, names or logos
10 Sept	Writ day
14 Sept	Noon deadline for bulk nomination of electorate candidates and party lists
15 Sept	Nomination day

More key election dates for the general public are available [here](#).

# Party Secretary Update

Issue 30, December 2023

## KIA ORA

Welcome to the last update for 2023.

Thank you for working with us this year. We look forward to you inputting into our post election review processes as we look to evaluate the 2023 election, which helps to inform our future planning. There are always lessons to be learnt at each election, which will also help inform the Commission's report on the election due by May next year.

As the end of the year approaches, we wanted to provide you with a reminder of the deadlines for invoices, and the dates for candidate and party returns due in February and March.

A reminder, there is one legislative change before the end of the year, with the temporary changes for overseas voters that applied for the 2023 General Election ending on 9 December. Read on for other electoral news.

Meri kirihimete and we hope you have a relaxing and enjoyable summer break.

Ka kite ano

**Kristina Temel**

**Manager Legal and Policy**



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Candidate and party returns  
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Annual report  
Christmas hours

## Contact details

**Electoral Commission head office:**

Level 4, 34-42 Manners Street, Wellington, 6140

Telephone: 04 495 0030

Websites: [elections.nz](https://elections.nz) [vote.nz](https://vote.nz) [electionresults.nz](https://electionresults.nz)

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

Queries about electoral rules: [legal@elections.govt.nz](mailto:legal@elections.govt.nz)

Advisory opinion requests: [advisory@elections.govt.nz](mailto:advisory@elections.govt.nz)

Requests for roll data: [data@elections.govt.nz](mailto:data@elections.govt.nz)



## Return of the writ

Following the completion of recounts in Nelson, Mt Albert and Tāmaki Makaurau electorates, we returned the writ for the general election on 16 November 2023.

## Detailed election results

Detailed results and statistics from the 2023 General Election, including votes taken in each voting place and special vote statistics, are now available [here](#).

## Port Waikato by-election

The Port Waikato by-election was held on 25 November and the [official results](#) were declared on 6 December.

## List vacancies

On 6 December 2023 Camilla Bellich was declared elected, following the resignation of Hon Andrew Little.

We expect to fill the list vacancy after the writ is returned on 12 December declaring Andrew Bayly as the successful candidate for the Port Waikato by-election.

## Post election reviews

We are currently undertaking our post-election review with input from all of our stakeholders and staff to assess the delivery of the 2023 General Election. This review will help us to look forward and start planning for the 2026 General Election.

We will be inviting each party to provide feedback to the Commission's Board in late January. You will receive an invitation and an agenda later this week. Your insights and comments are valuable. A short survey has also been sent out to all candidates and registered promoters asking for their input.

The Commission's Board also requested that the Auditor-General undertake an independent review of the quality assurance processes in place for election results. More information on the review is available [here](#). The Auditor-General's report is expected by April 2024.

The Commission's report into the 2023 General Election will be completed by May 2024.

## Candidate and party returns

We encourage you to liaise with your candidates about their returns for the general election, which are due on 14 February 2024.

We anticipate most parties will choose to collate their candidates' returns together to file with the Commission.

These can be lodged by upload via the Party Portal, by email to [legal@elections.govt.nz](mailto:legal@elections.govt.nz) or by delivery to our office in Wellington.

If you used the bulk nomination process we can only refund electorate candidate deposits (for candidates who received 5% or more of the total number of electorate votes) when all of your candidates on the schedule have filed their returns.

Party election expense and broadcasting allocation returns are due on 13 March 2024. All party expense returns must be audited. The template representation letter you can use to instruct your auditor, a cover letter and the return form and instructions are provided with this update. The forms are also available for download in the Party Portal.

## Key compliance dates

<b>2 Feb*</b>	Last day for party election expenses to be paid
<b>31 Jan</b>	Deadline for parties to submit broadcasting allocation invoices to the Commission
<b>14 Feb</b>	Deadline for candidate returns for the general election
<b>13 Mar</b>	Deadline for party election expense and broadcasting allocation returns
<b>26 Mar</b>	Deadline for Port Waikato candidate returns
<b>30 Apr</b>	Annual party returns of donations and loans and section 71A declarations due

\* Date changed from 26 January as a result of judicial recounts.

If you have any questions or concerns about your compliance reporting, please email [legal@elections.govt.nz](mailto:legal@elections.govt.nz).

## Independent electoral review

The review's final report was provided to the Minister of Justice on 30 November. The Minister of Justice will determine when the final report will be available [here](#).

## Annual report

The Commission's annual report 2023 is available [here](#).

## Christmas hours

Our offices will be open until Friday 22 December 2023. Our offices reopen to the public on Monday 15 January 2024.

# Party Secretary Update

Issue 32, June 2024

## KIA ORA

It has been a busy few months since the last update, including annual compliance reporting by 30 April, which marked the last compliance reporting for you for last year's general election.

During May the Auditor-General presented his report on the Commission's quality assurance processes for counting votes and the vote counting errors at the 2023 General Election. We welcome the Auditor-General's findings which we will be implementing ahead of the next general election. We already have review, audit and assurance work underway and we are looking at improvements to our processes including strengthening the official count processes.

We have made a number of recommendations for legislative change in our report on the general election, also released last month. You may be particularly interested in the recommendations in Part 8 that relate to candidates and parties.

Looking forward, financial statements will be due for some parties this month. As always, please get in touch with the team if you have any questions.

Ka kite ano

**Kristina Temel**  
Manager Legal and Policy

**Ko te pūrongo a  
Te Kaitiaki Take  
Kōwhiri mō te  
Pōtitanga a-Motu  
2023**

**Report of the  
Electoral Commission  
on the 2023  
General Election**

## IN THIS ISSUE

Auditor-General's report  
Report on the 2023 General Election  
Voter and non-voter survey  
Inquiry into 2023 General Election  
List vacancies  
Party news  
Legislation update  
Party admin and Portal access

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Requests for roll data: [data@elections.govt.nz](mailto:data@elections.govt.nz)

## Auditor-General's report

The Auditor-General's review into the vote counting errors at the 2023 General Election has now been presented to Parliament, and is available on the [Office of the Auditor-General's website](#).

In the report, the Auditor-General looks at what the errors were and how they came about. He found that quality assurance controls for the count at the general election were not as effective as they needed to be.

He makes a series of recommendations, including:

- reviewing all vote counting and quality control checks
- updating standard operations manuals and instructions on quality control activities.

We're already underway with many of the Auditor-General's recommendations to strengthen policies, systems, processes and practices for the next election. You can read more [here](#) about the work underway to put these changes in place.

During the Auditor-General's review, it was found some possible dual votes were included in the official results.

We have provided a [breakdown of the 321 apparent dual votes](#) that could have impacted candidates across 40 electorates. In every electorate the number of apparent dual votes left in the count is less than the winning candidate margin, so could not have affected the results.

## Report on the 2023 General Election

On 16 May the Electoral Commission presented its [statutory report on the 2023 General Election](#) to the Minister of Justice.

The election saw continued high levels of participation, with the highest enrolment rate (94.7%) since 2008 and a turnout rate of 78.2% of those enrolled.

It also saw a large increase in enrolment activity after writ day, when the electoral rolls used for issuing ordinary votes are printed. In 2023 there were more than 600,000 enrolments or updates after writ day, including 450,000 during the voting period (110,000 of which were on election day itself).

Our report contains detailed information on these and other aspects of the election, as well as 44 recommendations for improving delivery of future elections.

## Voter and non-voter survey

After the election we commissioned Verian to conduct a survey of voters and non-voters. The survey aims to:

- measure voter satisfaction and confidence in the electoral system
- determine levels of understanding of the electoral process
- identify barriers to voting.

Similar surveys have been conducted after each general election since 2005. Where possible the survey includes comparisons to the 2017 and 2020 General Elections.

The survey is available here: [Voter and Non-Voter Survey, 2023](#).

## Inquiry into 2023 General Election

The Commission appeared before the Justice Select Committee on 23 May to speak to our report on the election as part of the committee's inquiry.

The livestream of the hearing is available [here](#).

There were 108 written submissions to the inquiry which are available [here](#).

You can follow the progress of the inquiry [here](#).

## List vacancies

On 25 March Glen Bennett was declared elected, following the resignation of Hon Grant Robertson.

On 6 May Francisco Hernandez was declared elected, following the resignation of Hon James Shaw.

## Party news

On 27 May 2024 the Commission cancelled the registration of Leighton Baker Party and its logo at the party's request.

Registered parties now have to file annual financial statements with the Commission, with the first statements due in 2024.. We have a webpage for the publication of [annual financial statements](#) on elections.nz, where statements will be published progressively on receipt.

The due date for each party depends on whether the party is an incorporated or unincorporated society and/or what is required by the party's constitution.

For more more information about these requirements check out the Party Portal. You may also need to take your own accounting advice.

## Legislation update

The [Electoral \(Expenditure Limit\) Order 2024](#) was made on 27 May, updating the election advertising expense limits from 1 July to:

- \$67,800 for candidates at a by-election
- \$33,900 for candidates at a general election
- \$1,443,000 for registered parties contesting the party vote plus \$33,900 for each electorate contested by the party
- \$16,300 for unregistered third party promoters
- \$407,000 for registered third party promoters.

These limits are all inclusive of GST.

The change in expenditure limits amends the amount that a party can receive by way of donations protected from disclosure from 1 July. The adjusted limits are:

- \$58,257 that can be paid by a donor to a party during the parliamentary term
- \$288,380 that can be paid by way of donations protected from disclosure to a party during the parliamentary term.

The [Local Government \(Electoral Legislation and Maori Wards and Maori Constituencies\) Amendment Bill](#) was introduced on 20 May and has been referred to the Justice Select Committee. The Bill proposes:

- reinstating polls on Māori wards and Māori constituencies; and
- requiring councils to hold a binding poll at the 2025 local elections if they established Māori wards or Māori constituencies since 2020 and did not hold a poll; and
- adjusting the statutory time frames for local elections to give more time for the postal delivery of voting papers.

These changes are proposed to take effect in time for next year's triennial local body elections.

## Party admin and Portal access

Please remember to let us know if there are any changes to your contact details or your party's information recorded on the [Party Register](#).

As we include a link to your party's website on the register can you also let us know if the URL for the website changes. Please also remember to make sure the promoter statement on your party website is kept up to date whenever there is any change of party secretary.

We also need to be notified if you change your party auditor.

You can find the forms to notify us of a change of party secretary or change of party auditor in the forms section of the Party Portal.

During elections we ask you to consider if any of your administrative or finance staff need access to the Party Portal to seek guidance information or forms to support your work.

Now that the 2023 General Election and compliance reporting is over, can you please review whether access is still required.

Please contact Tim Tuapola if you need to update your details on the Register or update who has access to the Portal. Tim can be contacted at:

[tim.tuapola@elections.govt.nz](mailto:tim.tuapola@elections.govt.nz) or 04 806 3549.