

From: [OIA Enquiries](#)
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: OIA
Date: Wednesday, 8 May 2024 4:40:00 pm
Attachments: [OIA Response 2024 25.pdf](#)
[image001.png](#)

Kia ora [REDACTED]

Please find attached the response to your Official Information Act request.

In the interests of transparency, we release responses to Official Information Act requests every three months. We will publish this response with your personal details redacted on [elections.nz](#).

You have the right under section 28(3) of the Act to make a complaint to the Ombudsman if you are not satisfied with the response to your request. Information about how to do this is available at [ombudsman.parliament.nz](#) or by phoning 0800 802 602.

Ngā mihi

Electoral Commission | Te Kaitiaki Take Kōwhiri

PO Box 3220 | Level 10, 34-42 Manners Street | Wellington | [vote.nz](#) | [elections.nz](#)



From: OIA Enquiries <oia@elections.govt.nz>
Sent: Wednesday, April 17, 2024 2:54 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: OIA

Kia ora [REDACTED]

We are acknowledging your Official Information Request, received on Tuesday 9 April 2024, requesting:

- *The policy around paying staff during times where games, parties, and quizzes occur when there is little work to do.*
-Likely early in 2023. This may also include or be referred to as team bonding.
- *The total estimated staff who would have spent work hours doing this.*
- *A estimate on the total cost of lost hours when this was happening.*

We will respond to your request as soon as reasonably practicable within the 20 working days.

Ngā mihi,

Electoral Commission | Te Kaitiaki Take Kōwhiri

PO Box 3220 | Level 10, 34-42 Manners Street | Wellington | [vote.nz](#) | [elections.nz](#)



From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, April 9, 2024 3:31 PM
To: OIA Enquiries <oia@elections.govt.nz>
Subject: OIA

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

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.

This is a request for clarification of official information under the Official Information Act 1982 in relation to hours.

We request the following information:

- The policy around paying staff during times where games, parties, and quizzes occur when there is little work to do. -Likely early in 2023. This may also include or be referred to as team bonding.
- The total estimated staff who would have spent work hours doing this.
- A estimate on the total cost of lost hours when this was happening.

We do not wish to cause unnecessary expense or burden for your agency. Should clarification be required, please call or email. Similarly, if a request proves unnecessarily burdensome in form and we are likely to be able to adjust that request to be more specific or better suited to your information systems without losing the benefit of what is sought, please get in touch. If there is likely to be a delay in the assembly or provision of some of the information requested, please provide the balance as it becomes available.

In any place where possible, data that can be presented in an excel format is preferred to other methods of presentation e.g. PDF.

To avoid unnecessary printing and postage costs, we ask that you send a confirmation of receipt, the response and any other correspondence related to this email address. Please refer to "Free time" in the subject line.

Best,

[REDACTED]

Research Intern | New Zealand Taxpayers' Union | Auckland Ratepayers' Alliance

Mobile [REDACTED] | Email [REDACTED]

New Zealand Taxpayers' Union Inc. | Main +64 4 282 0300 | 117 Lambton Quay, Wellington 6011 | PO Box 10518, The Terrace, Wellington 6143 | www.taxpayers.org.nz

Auckland Ratepayers' Alliance | Main +64 9 281 5172 | Unit 6, 143 Quay Street, Auckland 1010 | PO Box 133099, Eastridge, Auckland 1146 | www.ratepayers.nz

We stand for Lower Taxes, Less Waste, and More Accountability across all levels of government. If you like what we do, join the [Taxpayers' Union](#) or the [Auckland Ratepayers' Alliance](#).

8/05/2024

By email to: [REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT REQUEST 2024/25

On Tuesday, 9 April 2024, you made a request under the Official Information Act 1982 (the OIA) for the following information:

- *The policy around paying staff during times where games, parties, and quizzes occur when there is little work to do.*
- *Likely early in 2023. This may also include or be referred to as team bonding.*
- *The total estimated staff who would have spent work hours doing this.*
- *A estimate on the total cost of lost hours when this was happening.*

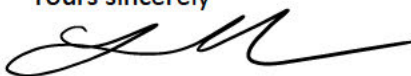
We are declining your request under section 18(e) of the Official Information Act. The Electoral Commission does not have a specific policy on payment or non-payment of staff who have spent work hours on activities such as team bonding. The Commission also does not collect information on the total estimated staff who have spent work hours on these activities, nor do we collect information on the total cost of lost hours for time spent on these activities.

As a good employer, a supportive culture is as important as the conditions we provide each staff member and while we don't have a policy on this, or track time, teams do spend time bonding through quizzes, morning teas, and other activities.

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You have the right under section 28(3) of the Act to make a complaint to the Ombudsman if you are not satisfied with the response to your request. Information about how to do this is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or by phoning 0800 802 602.

Yours sincerely



Lucy Hickman
Deputy Chief Executive Enterprise Services

From: [EC Legal](#)

Bcc:

taxpayers.org.nz

Subject: Advisory Opinion Survey for those who sought opinions July 2023-Dec 2024
Date: Wednesday, 11 December 2024 3:45:52 pm
Attachments: [image002.png](#)

Kia ora

The Electoral Commission conduct surveys to obtain feedback from people who sought advisory opinions, the latest survey is for people who sought advisory opinions during the last 18 months. Information collected will be used to assist in making improvements to the process. No personal data is being collected and the results will be anonymous.

Please click on the following link to complete the survey <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2024AOsurvey>. It should take you approximately 5 minutes to complete.

The Electoral Commission greatly appreciates your feedback and wishes you a restful and enjoyable holiday break.

Ngā mihi mahana

Legal and Policy Team | **Electoral Commission** | Te Kaitiaki Take Kōwhiri
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