

11 August 2025

By email to: [REDACTED]

Kia ora [REDACTED]

OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT REQUEST 2025/44

On Thursday, 31 July 2025 you made a request under the Official Information Act 1982 (the OIA) for the following information:

- *Does the Electoral Commission decide the budget for a general & how?*
- *How much power(if any) does the government have over the Electoral Commission & their budget decisions?*

The Electoral Commission (the Commission) has to submit budget bids for its funding. The Electoral Commission's budget is determined by the Government and funding is appropriated by Parliament.

A multi-year appropriation is in place for the 2023 and 2026 election cycles to provide flexibility to the Commission to manage timing uncertainties, including when the election will be held. A multi-year appropriation provides the ability to see funds across a 3-year cycle and to draw funds forward.

The Commission's statutory objective includes administering the electoral system efficiently and effectively. Every election requires the Commission to balance voting service levels against the funding available and spend it wisely.

Whilst funding is approved by the Government, [section 7](#) of the Electoral Act 1993 makes it clear that the Commission must act independently in performing its statutory functions and duties, and exercising its statutory powers.

In the interests of transparency, we release responses to Official Information Act requests every 3 months. We will publish this response with your personal details redacted.

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

Yours sincerely



Emma Gillard
Manager, Finance & Administration