

10 November 2025

By email to: [REDACTED]

Kia ora [REDACTED]

OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT REQUEST 2025/74

On Monday 6 October 2025 you made a request under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

I make a formal request under the Official Information Act for all communication sent and received by the Electoral Commission and all internal communication in regard the Electoral Commissions support and promotion of Maori wards and constituencies on the Commission website during the voting period of the referendum on Maori wards. I attach a screenshot of the passage on the website that was promoting the benefits of Maori wards and constituencies.”

We apologise for the delay in responding to your request. This request is refused pursuant to section 18(e) of the Act as the information requested does not exist because the Electoral Commission did not support or promote Māori wards and constituencies on the Commission website during the voting period of the referendum on Māori wards. The screenshot was not a screenshot of the Commission’s website.

The Electoral Commission does not run or oversee local elections, so we don’t provide information on the conduct of the elections or polls on our own website. We provided information on our website about how and when to enrol for the local elections. We advised people to contact their own council for more information. To make it easier for people to contact their council for more information, we provided a number of links to www.votelocal.co.nz/ and Council websites and maps - LGNZ.

We had a small number of complaints about one of the links we provided and erring on the side of caution, we took the link down. We have looked into the original complaint and are satisfied there was no intent to influence the debate on Māori wards.

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



Kristina Temel
Manager, Legal Regulation and Policy