

24 October 2025

By email to [REDACTED]

Kia ora [REDACTED]

## **OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT REQUEST 2025/77**

On Thursday, 16 October 2025 you made a request under the Official Information Act 1982 (the OIA) for the following information:

- *the number of cyber attacks*
- *type of attack (illegal access/hacking, interception of internal messaging, interception of external messaging, and other (please define))*
- *the number of across-department attacks (multipronged)*
- *access route (website, social media account, computer kiosks, smart phones, other digital devices (please define))*
- *when did the attacks occur*
- *what were the demands, were they met and at what cost, and actual consequences for non-compliance with the demands and for compliance (e.g. information dumped on dark web, etc (please define))*
- *indicate how many people's information were stolen or taken illegally or without authorisation and what that information related to, and how many times has the information been recovered..*
- *where the attack involved a government contractor, please specify.*
- *investigation/inquiry reports into incidents and cost*
- *whether an incident was referred to Police or other investigatory body (please specify) and status of said case, e.g. was a person prosecuted, extradition order made, etc) and type of charge laid (blackmail eg)*

Like all organisations, attempts are regularly made to find vulnerabilities in the Electoral Commission's systems, for example, phishing, credential sign-ons, and automated scanning by bots. We always need to be prepared for the possibility of interference or cyber threats.

Our systems undergo certification and accreditation in line with NZ government guidance. The certification and accreditation process is described under section 4 of the [New Zealand Information Security Manual](#).

This includes penetration testing of systems to ensure that data cannot be tampered with or manipulated. We adhere to best practice and industry standards to protect our systems and to ensure that we are managing our information security risks with suitable controls in place including:

- Denial of Service protection

- Firewalls
- Physical security
- Transport layer security
- Intrusion detection systems
- Incident response procedures.

The Electoral Commission works with other government agencies to prepare for elections including the Ministry of Justice, the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet, Government Communications Security Bureau and the New Zealand Security Intelligence Service.

As has been reported in page 22 of the [Report of the Electoral Commission on the 2023 General Election](#) and page 21 of the [Electoral Commissions Annual Report for the year ended 30 June 2024](#), the Electoral Commission improved its existing controls to detect, prevent and respond to cyberattacks. These improvements were effective, and we can confirm that there were no successful attacks on the Electoral Commission's systems during this period.

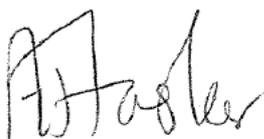
During this time the Electoral Commission has not received any demands from external parties, no one's information has been taken without authorisation, and it has made no referral to an external investigatory body.

We are unable to provide further details of attempts and reports into this work as to do so might disclose aspects of our capabilities which could be of benefit to malicious actors. Under sections 9(2)(k), 6(a) and 6(c) of the Act, copies of additional documentation are withheld as the release would increase the likelihood of compromise of the integrity of the security arrangements for elections and this would be likely to prejudice the maintenance of the law. The withholding of the information is also necessary to prevent the disclosure or use of official information for improper gain or improper advantage. In each case where redactions have been made under section 9(2)(k), consideration has been given to, and I am satisfied and this is not outweighed by other considerations which render it desirable or in the public interest to make that information available.

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](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz) or by phoning 0800 802 602.

Yours sincerely



Aaron Tasker  
Chief Information Officer