

21 April 2026

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By correspondence via X: ██████████

Kia ora ██████████

OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT REQUEST 2026/21

In 2023 you asked the following questions in relation to your OIA 2023/22 response:

- *Are New Zealand elections vulnerable to AI manipulation?*
- *What feedback has EC sought on electoral manipulation towards the coming election, including AI?*

On 20 March 2026 you made a request under the Official Information Act 1982 (the OIA) for the following information:

1. *What has changed if anything since the responses above?*
2. *Outside of advertising by political parties, are there any/many concerns about AI threats to electoral integrity?*
3. *Can we get last 90 day EC communications on AI?*

No legislative changes have been made to the regulatory role and powers of the Electoral Commission in the Electoral Act when it comes to content regulation of election advertising created by AI or otherwise.

AI continues to grow in its use and prevalence, and the issue of false or misleading information continues to be a broad concern in the digital landscape. Cyber security threats have also grown regarding the use of AI, and we continue to monitor and respond appropriately to these.

The Electoral Commission has not issued any communications externally on AI in the last 90 days. During this period, the Commission has released an updated internal staff ICT Acceptable Use policy 2026.

The position on AI in the draft policy remains unchanged to what is in the current policy which is:

The Commission does not currently allow the use of generative artificial intelligence (AI) for work purposes, unless the use is approved by the Chief Information Officer. If you are in doubt about what emerging technologies are approved for work purposes, including AI, talk to your manager or contact IT.

No approvals have been given by the Chief Information Officer.

A copy of the current policy and the proposed policy is attached.

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



Lucy Brader
Deputy Chief Executive, Enterprise Services