

5 May 2026

By email to: [REDACTED]

Kia ora [REDACTED]

OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT REQUEST 2026/28

On Tuesday 7 April 2026 you made a request under the Official Information Act 1982 (the OIA) for the following information:

I request all official information held by your agency from January 2019 to the date this request is processed relating to agency wide client decision making policies, criteria, guidance, and related records.

This includes, but is not limited to:

- *policies, manuals, operational guidance, and internal rules used when making decisions affecting clients*
- *criteria, thresholds, frameworks and decision making tools used by staff and what delegated authority that these decisions were made*
- *training materials, practice notes, and instructions given to staff about client decision making*
- *reports, audits, reviews and evaluations concerning how client decisions are made*
- *communications, briefings, memoranda and meeting notes concerning client decision making process*
- *templates, forms, checklists and workflow documents used in making client decisions*
- *records showing categories or types of client decisions made by the agency*
- *any documents describing review, escalation, quality assurance, complaint, or correction process for client decisions*

On Thursday 24 April 2026 we sought a clarification of your request. We have not received a response from you. We are therefore declining your request under section 18(e) of the Act on the basis that the information requested does not exist.

The Electoral Commission is not a government 'agency' with 'client' decision making functions. The Electoral Commission is an independent Crown entity, responsible for running New Zealand's parliamentary elections and keeping the electoral rolls up to date in accordance with the requirements of the Electoral Act 1993. The Electoral Act sets out the rules about who is eligible to register to vote and how people can vote in an election. The Commission is required to administer these rules, made by Parliament, and does not have any discretion to make decisions in this regard, for example about who is eligible to enrol and vote.

More information about the role of the Commission can be found here: [About the Electoral Commission | Elections NZ](#).

Some aspects of the Commission's work does involve decision making, for example, the Commission must determine party registration applications and decide how much broadcasting allocation funding can be allocated to eligible parties. We provide detailed information about these processes on our website [For starting a political party | Elections NZ](#) and [About the broadcasting allocation | Elections NZ](#).

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
Chief Legal Advisor