

28 April 2026

By email to: [REDACTED]

Kia ora [REDACTED]

OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT REQUEST 2026/29

On Wednesday, 8 April 2026 you made a request under the Official Information Act 1982 (the OIA) for the following information:

This play <https://www.atc.co.nz/whats-on/2026-season/helen-clark-in-six-outfits#about> has been heavily promoted by all major media companies in an election year and provides politically charged favouritism to the NZ labour Party by promoting the former leader. Additionally heavy praise towards Jacinda Arden in the form of her book and film has also been promoted by all major media outlets.

I would like to see the budgeting details for the major media outlets released to ensure that this was not given undue favouritism also. <https://www.rnz.co.nz/news/national/591796/ardern-documentary-prime-minister-nominated-for-two-emmy-awards>

<https://www.rnz.co.nz/life/books/jacinda-ardern-among-star-studded-auckland-writers-festival-line-up>

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 Commission is also responsible for administering the election advertising rules in the Electoral Act 1993, which include promoter statements and authorisation requirements. Candidates, parties, MPs and third-party promoters are free to advertise at any time throughout the parliamentary term except for on election day and within 10m of a voting place during advance voting.

Outside of the rules in the Electoral Act, we do not regulate the content of election advertising, nor commentary or promotional material on political matters. We do not hold budgeting details for media outlets.

Your request is therefore refused under section 18(g) of the Act, on the basis that the information is not held by the organisation.

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