

11 May 2026

By email to: [REDACTED]

Kia ora [REDACTED]

OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT REQUEST 2026/34

On Thursday 23 April you made a request under the Official Information Act 1982 (the OIA) for the following information:

I seek clarification and records relating specifically to the Te Pāti Māori Party Donations and Loans Return for the year ending 31 December 2024.

From the publicly available document:

- *Total party donations are recorded as \$53,846.42.*
- *The document is marked "DRAFT" throughout.*
- *The checklist section does not indicate that an auditor's report is enclosed.*
- *The checklist section does not indicate that all supporting documentation has been supplied to an auditor.*
- *The return is nonetheless signed and dated.*

Under section 210A of the Electoral Act 1993, an auditor's report is required where total party donations exceed \$50,000.

Given this, I request:

Confirmation of whether an auditor's report was obtained for the Te Pāti Māori 2024 annual return.

If an auditor's report was obtained:

- *a copy of that report, and*
- *confirmation of whether it was provided to the Electoral Commission as part of the filing.*

If no auditor's report was obtained:

- *confirmation of that fact, and*
- *any records showing how the return was assessed against section 210A of the Electoral Act 1993.*

Confirmation of whether the document currently published by the Electoral Commission (marked "DRAFT") is:

- *the final accepted return, or*
- *an earlier version published in error.*

If the published document is not the final accepted return:

- *a copy of the final accepted version, and*

- any records relating to the publication of the draft-marked document.

Any correspondence between the Electoral Commission and Te Pāti Māori relating to:

- the audit requirement under section 210A, and
the status or completeness of the 2024 return.

Any internal assessment, advice, or decision record regarding whether the Te Pāti Māori 2024 return complies with the Electoral Act 1993.

Te Pāti Māori filed their annual return on 30 April 2025 without the audit report. The return is publicly available [here](#). In the cover email provided, the party secretary explained that the audit report would be provided the next day.

If a party files a return without the accompanying audit report, for transparency we publish the return that has been submitted while we follow up with the party regarding the audit report.

The Commission followed up on 2 May 2025 by email regarding the outstanding final return and audit report.

An updated annual return was provided on 8 May complete with an audit report. Not all parties had to include an audit report with their return. Audit reports are not required if a party received \$50,000 or less in donations and did not receive any new loans or have an existing party loan with an unpaid balance of over \$15,000. Changes made to the return and the level of donations meant that an audit report was not required, but as it was lodged the Commission published it. The amended final annual return is publicly available [here](#).

A copy of the emails are attached. Some contact details, such as phone numbers, email addresses and some names have been withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the OIA which relates to the privacy of natural persons. In each case where redactions are made under section 9(2)(a), consideration has been given to and I am satisfied that the reasons for withholding of the information are not outweighed by other considerations which render it desirable 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 or by phoning 0800 802 602.

Yours sincerely



Kristina Temel
Chief Legal Advisor