

5 July 2024

By email to: [REDACTED]

Kia ora [REDACTED]

OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT REQUEST 2024/38

On Thursday 6 June 2024 you made a request under the Official Information Act 1982 (the OIA) for the following information:

Pursuant to the Official Information Act 1982, I am requesting comprehensive information regarding communications and decisions involving the Electoral Commission, Te Pāti Māori, and Manurewa Marae. Specifically, I seek the following:

- 1. All communications between John Tamihere (or his proxies or leadership team) at any of the organizations he has a leadership role in, including Te Whānau o Waipareira and/or Te Pāti Māori (The Māori Party), including Lance Norman, and Karl Le Quesne (or his proxies or the Electoral Commission's leadership team), including text messages.**
 - *This request covers any form of communication, including but not limited to emails, text messages, instant messaging apps, and letters.*
- 2. Any communications between Te Whānau o Waipareira and/or Te Pāti Māori (aka The Māori Party) and the Electoral Commission from October 1, 2022, to the present.**
 - *This includes all forms of communication (emails, letters, text messages, etc.) and should encompass all interactions regardless of their medium.*
- 3. All electronic communications and documentation within the Electoral Commission concerning the decision to grant polling booths at Manurewa Marae.**
 - *This request covers internal memos, emails, meeting minutes, decision papers, and any other relevant documents related to the decision-making process.*
- 4. All complaints received regarding Manurewa Marae, the candidate based there (Takutai Moana Kemp aka Takutai Tarsh Kemp), Te Pāti Māori (The Māori Party), Te Whānau o Waipareira (aka Waipareira Trust), and any associated organizations.**
 - *Please provide details of each complaint, the date it was received, and any action taken in response.*

5. Any internal communications regarding complaints leveled against Manurewa Marae, Te Pāti Māori (The Māori Party), Takutai Moana Kemp (aka Takutai Tarsh Kemp), Te Whānau o Waipareira (aka Waipareira Trust), and the Electoral Commission's handling of the polling booth and the overall oversight of the above entities' election campaigning operations.

- This should include all emails, meeting notes, internal reports, and any other documentation that discusses or references these complaints or the entities mentioned.

6. Any communications between Takutai Moana Kemp (aka Takutai Tarsh Kemp) and the Electoral Commission.

- This includes all forms of communication, such as emails, text messages, letters, and instant messaging apps.

7. Details of any in-person meetings, on-site investigations, or visits by the Electoral Commission to any of the above entities.

- This includes records of meetings, visits, reports generated from these visits, and any related documentation.

Requested documents have been collated by question and are organised per the table below:

1	Document 1.0 Please note that Documents 4.0 and 4.1 also relate to this question.
2	Documents relating to this question appear in Documents 4.0 and 4.1
3	Document 3.0
4	Documents 4.0 and 4.1
5	Document 5.0
6	Document 6.0
7	Document 7.0 Please note that Document 3.0 also relates to this question.

We contacted you on 18 June 2024 to seek clarification regarding your request, specifically whether it was limited to Manurewa Marae, including complaints and compliance, because questions 1, 2, and 4 are more open-ended. You responded on 18 June 2024 saying that you did not wish to clarify so we have treated the request as not being limited to complaints and compliance matters relating to Manurewa Marae.

Copies of documents are attached.

The videos to be provided to you as part of this request are too large in size to be attached by email. We will separately email you with a link to the media Dropbox to access these early next week.

For the purposes of the request, we have included all documents related to Te Pāti Māori and Manurewa Marae and all complaints and specific correspondence sent to the identified individuals.

This excludes general correspondence that Lance Norman received in his role as party secretary or that Takutai Tarsh Kemp received as an electorate candidate, which all party secretaries and candidates received correspondence about, for example, the nominations process.

Where not specified, the timeframe has been treated as the period 1 October 2022 to the date of your request.

Some documents relating to alleged breaches that have been referred to Police as outlined in media releases of [29 November 2023](#) and [27 September 2023](#) are withheld under section 6(c) of the Act on the basis that the disclosure of information requested would likely prejudice the maintenance of the law, including the prevention, detection and investigation of offences.

We have only included material within documents that are in scope of your request, we have redacted parts that are out of scope. 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. Parts of the documents are also withheld under sections 6(c) and 6(a) of the Act where they may prejudice the maintenance of the law and compromise security arrangements at elections.

In each case where redactions have been 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
Manager, Legal and Policy