

10 July 2024

By email to: [REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

### **OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT REQUEST 2024/41**

On Tuesday 11 June 2024 you made a request under the Official Information Act 1982 (the OIA) for the following information:

*Under the OIA I would like to please request the following:*

*Media:*

*Acting Electoral Commission chair Jane Meares told Checkpoint concerns had been raised over the use of the marae as a voting place.*

*But she said the marae, like all voting places, had been carefully assessed, and the assessment found it was appropriate.*

*"It was recommended to us by the community, because it's extensively used by them, because health services are provided there.*

*"Acknowledging that people need the opportunity to vote at a range of voting places at an electorate, and having assurances that the candidate would not be involved in any way at the voting place, we decided that we would use it."*

*As such, please provide all correspondence /communications internal and external regarding the community recommendations that the Marae should be used as a voting centre. This should include but not be limited to initial recommendations from the community, through to final approval and include all texts, emails, meeting minutes etc.*

*Please provide all communications relating to the assurances that the candidate would not be involved at the voting place.*

Copies of the documents requested are attached. These have been collated into '1.0 Documents'.

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 section 6(a) of the Act where they may 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](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz) or by phoning 0800 802 602.

Yours sincerely



Karl Le Quesne  
Chief Electoral Officer