

16 May 2025

By email to: [REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT REQUEST 2025/22

On Saturday 12 April 2025, you made a request under the Official Information Act 1982 (the OIA), replacing your earlier request of the same date for the following information:

- 1/ Please supply a copy of the paperwork submitted in order to register the New Zealand Loyal political party in 2023 and any additional paper work supplied with the original application, plus any addition paperwork supplied on request of the Electoral Commission in order to complete the Registration Process.*
- 2/ Please supply a copy of any subsequent paperwork supplied while the New Zealand Loyal political party was registered.*
- 3/ Was there any funds given to New Zealand Loyal for broadcasting of election programmes and election advertising for the 2023 General Election, and if so, how much? If the answer is 'No', please give an explanation for why there was none allocated.*
- 4/ Was New Zealand Loyal political party required to submit any further financial documentation after the 2023 return, as required by all parties or on request of the Electoral Commission? If so, please supply a copy of that request and of the paperwork submitted.*
- 5/ Please supply a copy of the paperwork submitted in order to de-register the New Zealand Loyal political party in 2024.*
- 6/ Is there any outstanding paper work still required and not yet submitted, after the de-registration of the New Zealand Loyal political party? If there is, please supply a statement on what is still required to be submitted, and the date paperwork is due by.*

Please find answers to your questions below.

- 1/ Please supply a copy of the paperwork submitted in order to register the New Zealand Loyal political party in 2023 and any additional paper work supplied with the original application, plus any addition paperwork supplied on request of the Electoral Commission in order to complete the Registration Process.*

Please find attached a copy of New Zealand Loyal's applications to register a political party and logo and required statutory declarations. New Zealand Loyal's first registration application was not accepted due to an issue with the signatures on the membership forms. The first application and second application and accompanying correspondence has been included in the documents attached.

Some contact details, such as phone numbers, some email addresses, and 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 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.

The Commission's Policy and Procedures for the Registration of Political Parties and Logos states that membership evidence supplied to the Commission in hardcopy will, in consultation with the party, either be returned to the applicant or destroyed within six months of the application being determined and that all electronic information with regard to individual party members' details will be deleted by the Commission within six months from the date the application is determined. Accordingly, the Commission no longer holds the membership evidence supplied for New Zealand Loyal's applications.

2/ Please supply a copy of any subsequent paperwork supplied while the New Zealand Loyal political party was registered.

Please find attached the requested documents. These include New Zealand Loyal's:

- Constitution
- Financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2023
- Party Expenses return for the 2023 General Election
- Amended Party Expenses return for the 2023 General Election
- Party donations and loans return for the year ended 31 December 2023
- Section 71A Statutory Declaration
- Answers to membership questions
- Membership renewal form.
- Final bulk nomination and party list

Some contact details, such as phone numbers, some email addresses, and names, have been withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the OIA which relates to the privacy of natural persons. The total number of current financial members has been withheld under section 9(2)(ba) of the OIA to protect information which is subject to an obligation of confidence, where the making available of the information would be likely to prejudice the supply of similar information and it is in the public interest that such information should continue to be supplied. In each case where redactions have been made under section 9(2)(a) and 9(2)(ba), 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.

3/ Was there any funds given to New Zealand Loyal for broadcasting of election programmes and election advertising for the 2023 General Election, and if so, how much? If the answer is 'No', please give an explanation for why there was none allocated.

No funds were allocated to New Zealand Loyal in the 2023 Broadcasting Allocation decision. This is because New Zealand Loyal did not provide the Electoral Commission with the required notice of eligibility to be allocated broadcasting money for the 2023 General Election by the deadline for providing notice, which was 1 March 2023.

4/ Was New Zealand Loyal political party required to submit any further financial documentation after the 2023 return, as required by all parties or on request of the Electoral Commission? If so, please supply a copy of that request and of the paperwork submitted.

No, New Zealand Loyal was not required to submit any further financial documentation after they submitted their financial statements for the year ending 21 December 2023. We note that the party submitted their financial statements on 10 July 2024, after the deadline of 1 July 2024.

5/ Please supply a copy of the paperwork submitted in order to de-register the New Zealand Loyal political party in 2024.

Please find attached email correspondence regarding the deregistration of New Zealand Loyal. For a party to deregister, the party secretary, or an MP who is a current financial member of the party, can apply to cancel the registration of a party and/or logo. The application should be made in writing to the Electoral Commission and the Chief Electoral Officer can approve the request. In all other cases the Commission's Board determines the cancellation of registration of a party or a logo.

Some contact details, such as phone numbers, some email addresses, and 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 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.

6/ Is there any outstanding paper work still required and not yet submitted, after the de-registration of the New Zealand Loyal political party? If there is, please supply a statement on what is still required to be submitted, and the date paperwork is due by.

No, there is no outstanding paperwork that the Commission requires from New Zealand Loyal.

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 Regulation and Policy