

16 May 2025

By email to: [REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT REQUEST 2025/31

On Friday 09 May 2025 you made a request under the Official Information Act 1982 (the OIA) for the following information:

Please advise what action the Electoral Commission is taking to ensure Te Pati Maori complies with all its obligations in regard to the 2023 election.

Please provide a copy of the return of Te Pati Maori for the 2023 election year.

Please advise how the Electoral Commission is carrying out its legislated obligations and ensuring compliance with the Act.

We have provided responses to your questions below:

1. *Please advise what action the Electoral Commission is taking to ensure Te Pati Maori complies with all its obligations in regard to the 2023 election.*

Te Pāti Māori's failure to file the finalised financial statements and an audit report by 30 June 2024 was followed up immediately by the Electoral Commission. We corresponded with the party and when we were unable to resolve the non-compliance referred the matter to Police on 4 October 2023. This was notified publicly [here](#). The annual financial statement was subsequently filed and is available [here](#). We have continued to follow up with the party to seek the outstanding audit report. We have received confirmation from the party and the auditor that the audit report is expected to be finalised by the end of May.

2. *Please provide a copy of the return of Te Pati Maori for the 2023 election year.*

Please find attached Te Pāti Māori's Party Donations and Loans return for the 2023 calendar year, and their Party Expenses Return for the 2023 General Election. Both returns are publicly available on the Electoral Commission's website. The donations and loans return can be found [here](#), and the party expense return can be found [here](#).

Registered political parties have to let us know within 10 working days when they get more than \$20,000 from a single donor between 1 January of election year and the day before election day.

Within this timeframe, Te Pāti Māori received a donation exceeding \$20K that is shown on our website [here](#).

3. *Please advise how the Electoral Commission is carrying out its legislated obligations and ensuring compliance with the Act.*

The Electoral Commission is careful to administer the Electoral Act and approach compliance matters on an equal basis regardless of the party or candidate involved. We follow up on all non-compliance. Where a breach is significant enough and/or compliance cannot be achieved, we must refer the matter to the Police. Before we do this we consider the circumstances of the breach, the public interest and any applicable 'reasonable excuse elements' (see for example sections [210D](#), [210J](#), and [214H](#)).

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