

1 August 2022

By email to: [REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT REQUEST 2022/25

Thank you for your Official Information Act (OIA) request, received 6 July 2022, which requested:

“Copies of all the documents you have relating to this matter. With due particularity I request the documents relating to the referral of the three matters to the New Zealand Police. With further particular care can you tell me what section and subsections and of what act of Parliament have you referred these three matters to the NZ Police from please.”

On 4 July 2022, the Electoral Commission made three referrals to Police relating to complaints about social media content on election day for the Tauranga By-Election.

The three referrals made are for apparent breaches of section 197(1)(g)(i) of the Electoral Act 1993 which prohibits the publication of statements on election day that are advising or intended or likely to influence any elector.

As information you have requested is relevant to these matters, we have determined that the release of the information at this time, prior to the conclusion of any Police inquiries, would be likely to prejudice the outcome of those inquiries.

Your request for copies of documents relating to the referrals has therefore been declined under section 6(c) of the Act on the basis that disclosure of the information requested would likely prejudice the maintenance of the law, including the prevention, detection and investigation of offences.

In the interests of transparency, we release responses to Official Information Act requests every three months. We will publish this response with your personal details redacted on www.elections.nz.

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