

13 February 2024

By email to: [REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT REQUEST 2024/01

On Tuesday 9 January 2024 you made a request under the Official Information Act 1982 (the OIA) for the following information:

1. *Have you had any election complaints or concerns about misinformation and election outcomes being affected by social media and/or search engine searches and/or other media?*
2. *Has your organisation requested any social platform including search platforms to take any action or inaction since 1 January 2022 - if so, what?*
3. *Has any opinion been sought or plans made to deal with election interference, if a plan exists please provide a copy of it.*
4. *What actions are being taken with respect to my concerns by your organisation or you as an individual?*
5. *What plans exist to make information publicly available such that people do not have to utilise the OIA to gather information they are seeking?*
6. *What taxpayer funds or Public/Private partnerships or other money given to media since the 1st of January 2023 up until the 30th December 2024 which includes the General Election coverage of 2023.*
7. *Are intelligence agency's activities in New Zealand or overseas or media or others being funded to influence election outcomes within New Zealand?*
8. *Is the government planning to use or was asked to use the Reserve Bank of New Zealand's ability to create debt-free money where interest does not have to be paid? What reports do you have on this issue of RBNZ creating debt-free money?*
9. *What plans are there to build but specifically fund new accommodation facilities within New Zealand?*
10. *Does the government plan to provide debt-free money to local body organisations to fund infrastructure thereby reducing the cost to councils and ratepayers?*
11. *Have any staff made a complaint that has been overruled by their boss on election interference? If so, how many complaints were received from 1st Jan 2023 - 31st December 2023?*

Please find answers to questions 1 to 5 set out below.

1. *Have you had any election complaints or concerns about misinformation and election outcomes being affected by social media and/or search engine searches and/or other media?*

The Electoral Commission received three complaints in 2023 about misinformation, however none of them involved concerns about election outcomes being affected by social media. In addition to those three

complaints, we escalated 20 other matters relating to alleged breaches of the election day rules that do not pertain to your request.

2. *Has your organisation requested any social platform including search platforms to take any action or inaction since 1 January 2022 - if so, what?*

As above, the Electoral Commission contacted social media platforms regarding 23 complaints received that related to alleged misinformation and breaches of the election day rules.

3. *Has any opinion been sought or plans made to deal with election interference, if a plan exists please provide a copy of it.*

You can find the inter-agency protocols for New Zealand's 2023 General Election covering election interference on our website here: [Election protocols | Elections](#)

4. *What actions are being taken with respect to my concerns by your organisation or you as an individual?*

Please see above.

5. *What plans exist to make information publicly available such that people do not have to utilise the OIA to gather information they are seeking?*

Please see above.

Items 6-11

The Electoral Commission is not able to provide the information you have requested in items 6-11 as it is not held by the Commission. On this basis your request is refused under section 18(e) of the Act.

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