

30/08/2024

By email to: [REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT REQUEST 2024/56

On Monday, 19 August you made a request under the Official Information Act 1982 (the OIA) for the following information:

1. *Relating to the now closed political party that ran in the 2023 NZ Election "New Zealand Loyal", I would like to request copies of all information held by the Electoral Commission that display the details of the leadership of the party, including the Board members, the Party Leader, Treasurer, the Caucus, The Secretary, or anyone else who are affiliated with the party that the Electoral commission holds in the period of 2023 and through 2024 when it closed in August.*
2. *I would to also request relating to this same closed political party "New Zealand Loyal" the Revenue statement, if this is held by the Electoral commission or is required by the Electoral commission to show for example the profits made from the sale of the party merchandise or any other monetary gain outside of the Donations, in detail.*
3. *Is there any record held by the Electoral commission that shows any relationship of New Zealand Loyal political party to Esme Schlotjes of the Kapiti loyal "Preloved Emporium", and if rentals of the buildings used by Kapiti Loyal preloved emporium are paid for in full or in part by the Political party New Zealand Loyal.*
4. *Can you also please advise what the procedure is upon a political party deregistering with regards to what happens with the remaining funds held by them. The Party closed in July/August 2024 and would have held a substantial cashflow from the membership who had just finished paying for their next round of membership subscriptions along with donations that the party was receiving right up until it unexpectedly closed, Can you please advise if you have knowledge of the remaining funds if they were declared to the electoral commission upon closing and if the statement of the remaining funds is also provided to me under this OIA request.*
5. *Further can you please advise if the statement of the remaining party funds held by the political party at the time of closing has not as yet been declared to the electoral commission, can you please advise what date that information must be supplied to the Electoral commission?*

Please find our answers to your questions below.

1. *Relating to the now closed political party that ran in the 2023 NZ Election "New Zealand Loyal", I would like to request copies of all information held by the Electoral Commission that*

display the details of the leadership of the party, including the Board members, the Party Leader, Treasurer, the Caucus, The Secretary, or anyone else who are affiliated with the party that the Electoral commission holds in the period of 2023 and through 2024 when it closed in August.

Under the Electoral Act 1993, an application to register a party can be made by the party secretary. During the period of the application, and registration of New Zealand Loyal, the party secretary was Michele Smith. A registered party must appoint an auditor. MFA Audit was appointed as the party's auditor.

The party secretary has to lodge a copy of the party's constitution under section 71B of the Act which is published with the party register. A copy of the most recent constitution the party lodged with the Commission is enclosed. The party leader is listed in this document as Liz Gunn.

Details of the leadership of the party, including the board members treasurer, caucus or any other person affiliated with NZ Loyal are internal party matters and are not required to be held by the Commission. The party secretary is not required to separately notify other office holder positions so that information was not supplied as part of the party's registration.

All Electoral Act obligations regarding financial disclosure are held either by the party secretary or by electorate candidates whose names are available in returns as outlined below.

2. *I would to also request relating to this same closed political party "New Zealand Loyal" the Revenue statement, if this is held by the Electoral commission or is required by the Electoral commission to show for example the profits made from the sale of the party merchandise or any other monetary gain outside of the Donations, in detail.*

All of the information that the Electoral Commission holds regarding required disclosures by New Zealand Loyal are linked below.

- Annual financial statements: [Annual financial statements | Elections](#)
- Annual party returns of donations and loans: [Party donations and loans by year | Elections](#)
- Party expenses returns for the 2023 General Election: [Party expenses | Elections](#)
- Candidate returns of expenses, donations, and loans for the 2023 General Election (filtered by NZ Loyal): [Candidate expenses, donations & loans | Elections](#).

3. *Is there any record held by the Electoral commission that shows any relationship of New Zealand Loyal political party to Esme Schlotjes of the Kapiti loyal "Preloved Emporium", and if rentals of the buildings used by Kapiti Loyal preloved emporium are paid for in full or in part by the Political party New Zealand Loyal.*

See response above. The only records the Commission holds regarding payments that New Zealand Loyal made are contained in the disclosure documents outlined above which are publicly available.

4. *Can you also please advise what the procedure is upon a political party deregistering with regards to what happens with the remaining funds held by them. The Party closed in July/August 2024 and would have held a substantial cashflow from the membership who had just finished paying for their next round of membership subscriptions along with donations that the party was receiving right up until it unexpectedly closed, Can you please advise if you have knowledge of the remaining funds if they were declared to the electoral commission upon closing and if the statement of the remaining funds is also provided to me under this OIA request.*

The rules for what happens if a party is wound up are determined by the party's own internal rules and processes. A party secretary is not required to provide the Commission with a statement of its remaining funds when the party's registration is cancelled. The party secretary of New Zealand Loyal complied with their reporting obligations for donations and annual financial statements due during 2024, outlined above. [Section 70 of the Electoral Act 1993](#) contains the provisions for cancellation of registration of a party.

5. *Further can you please advise if the statement of the remaining party funds held by the political party at the time of closing has not as yet been declared to the electoral commission, can you please advise what date that information must be supplied to the Electoral commission?*

Please see the answer above to question 4.

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