

13 October 2022

Andrew Ecclestone  
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Our ref: OIA 97762

Tēnā koe Andrew

### **Official Information Act request: Consultation with political parties**

I refer to the previous correspondence about your request of 23 July 2022, under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) for information on consultation with political parties in respect of possible reform of the electoral finance laws.

On 17 August 2022, the Ministry extended the due date for responding to your request by 40 working days to 12 October 2022. The public holiday on 26 September 2022 meant the due date subsequently changed to 13 October 2022.

In the last stages of finalising its response, the Ministry has decided to reconsider whether it is necessary to withhold some information that was originally going to be withheld. This has meant that the full response to your request has been slightly delayed. We expect that it will be provided to you by 21 October 2022.

In the meantime, we can advise of the high-level decisions on the seven parts of your request:

- 1) *Copies of the submissions received in response to the consultation from all political parties.*

The Ministry is withholding the submissions from political parties in full under section 9(2)(ba)(i) of the Act to protect information that is subject to an obligation of confidence. The full response will explain the reasons for this.

- 2) *Copies of the Ministry's enquiries to the political parties asking their views on release of their submissions in response to OIA requests received from any other requester seeking copies of the submissions.*
- 3) *Copies of the responses received by the Ministry from political parties in response to the enquiries made by the Ministry about the OIA requests it received for copies of their submissions.*

The Ministry is refusing these parts of your request under section 18(e) of the Act as the information does not exist. The full response will elaborate on this.

- 4) *A list of, and copies of, all emails, memos, briefings etc sent and received by people working for the Ministry of Justice, including consultation with the Minister of Justice or any of her officials, on the OIA requests received for copies of the submissions received from political parties.*

The Ministry is granting your request for this information, but with some redactions.

- 5) *If the OIA requests for copies of submissions were discussed orally with the Minister or any of her officials, the information held, in writing or in the heads of Ministry officials, about any such conversation(s).*

The Ministry is refusing this part of your request under section 18(e) of the Act as the information does not exist. The full response will elaborate on this.

- 6) *Copies of all other information generated within the Ministry in the course of processing the OIA requests for copies of the submissions received from political parties.*

There is no information that falls within this part that is not covered by part 4.

- 7) *The date on which the Ministry will publish the rest of the submissions it received in response to the consultation on political donations."*

Copies of all the public submissions were published on 21 July 2022. They can be found in eight parts under reference OIA 96540 here: [justice.govt.nz/about/official-information-act-requests/oia-responses/?Filter\\_Topic=40&Filter\\_Topic\\_child=75](https://justice.govt.nz/about/official-information-act-requests/oia-responses/?Filter_Topic=40&Filter_Topic_child=75).

If you are not satisfied with this response, you have the right to make a complaint to the Ombudsman under section 28(3) of the Act. The Ombudsman may be contacted by email to [info@ombudsman.parliament.nz](mailto:info@ombudsman.parliament.nz) or by calling 0800 802 602.

Yours sincerely



Antony Paltridge  
**Team Leader, Ministerial Relations and Services**