

2 October 2020

Kirstin Smith

[Fyi-request-13701-3049794e@requests.fyi.org.nz](mailto:Fyi-request-13701-3049794e@requests.fyi.org.nz)

Dear Kirstin

### OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT REQUEST 2020/31

I refer to your email of 7 September 2020 to the Electoral Commission in which you requested, under the Official Information Act 1982 ('the Act'):

*“a full breakdown on the costs of the last 4 elections. I would like to know exactly [what] the cost to the tax payer is for holding elections, i.e. costs of running polling booths, what amount is contributed to the campaigns, marketing material and advertising for enrolling to vote.”*

During the period that you have requested information for, the delivery of enrolment and voting services has transitioned from being delivered by three separate agencies, to the establishment of one agency, the Electoral Commission, that is now responsible for all aspects of enrolment and voting.

The Electoral Commission was established from 1 October 2010 adopting the functions of the current Chief Electoral Officer and the former Electoral Commission. In 2012, the functions of the Chief Registrar of Electors were transferred to the new Electoral Commission.

For this reason, the following table provides total cost figures for the 2008 and 2011 general elections and a more detailed breakdown for the 2014 and 2017 general elections.

<b>Expenditure</b>	<b>2008 \$000</b>	<b>2011 \$000</b>	<b>2014 \$000</b>	<b>2017 \$000</b>
HQ & Voting Places property costs			5,795	6,529
Staffing costs – HQ, Voting Places			15,618	17,894
EasyVote pack – include printing, insert and postage costs			1,912	2,255
Marketing campaign – include advertising production and placement on different media channels			5,587	10,105
Supplies – ballot paper, ballot boxes, voting screens etc.			3,036	4,437
Freight costs – delivery supplies to HQ and Voting Places			424	676
IT infrastructure			2,698	2,738
Travel			1,090	1,007
Other			2,666	1,978
<b>Total direct conduct costs for the election over 3 year cycle</b>	<b>30,405</b>	<b>32,543</b>	<b>38,826</b>	<b>47,619</b>

I trust this answers your request. You have the right under section 28(3) of the Act to complain to the Ombudsman if you are not satisfied with the response to your request.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K. Temel', written in a cursive style.

Kristina Temel  
Manager Legal and Policy