



12 March 2021

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Tēnā koe Ryan

**Your Official Information Act request OIA 20/21-0450**

Thank you for your email received 17 February 2021 for the following under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

*1) Any and all **approaches and proposals** from or to Smartmatic and or it's third party affiliates or contractors which include Dominion & all namesake affiliates.*

*2) Any and all **approaches and or proposals** from or to Smartmatic held by the Department of Internal Affairs **in relation to the Electoral Commission or Catalyst Election Systems** used in NZ since 2003 or third party affiliates in conjunction with Election systems utilised in both general & local elections*

*3) Please provide **a full breakdown of all financial interests**, both national and international held by the department of internal affairs in collaboration with the following campaigns, including but not limited to, government and affiliates, corporate sponsors, individuals, not for profit groups, companies, politically affiliated organisations and or academics that added meaningful contribution by way of material input and or donation;*

*3.1) Vote local NZ*

*3.2) On the fence*

*3.3) Generation Zero*

*4) Please provide information on any other campaigns authored or created by Democracy and Design that are documented within department of internal affairs in relation to general and local government elections including all associates and complete with the same corresponding information as requested herein.*

Regarding point one of the request, there are six documents that fall within scope. These relate to the work around the online voting trial which was cancelled in 2019. This work was managed by a working group of nine councils. As part of the tender process to select an online voting system provider, Smartmatic and other providers submitted Requests for Information (RFI).

Once Smartmatic was given the tender to deliver the trial, it was in contact with the Department so that the Department could better understand its systems. This would have informed the Department's work on regulations to accommodate online voting.

We are releasing five documents to you. These include four emails between the Department and Smartmatic, and the presentation Smartmatic gave at its meeting with the Department about its systems.

We are withholding Smartmatic's RFI in full under section 9(2)(b)(ii) of the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), to protect information where the making available of the information would be likely unreasonably to prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied or who is the subject of the information

Regarding point three of the request, there are no records of financial interests held by the Department in relation to Vote Local NZ, On the Fence, and Generation Zero.

Regarding point four of the request, the Department has no responsibilities in relation to the legislation for, or administration of, general elections.

As is required by section 9(1) of the Act, I have considered whether the grounds for withholding information is outweighed by other considerations which would make it desirable, in the public interest, to make that information available. In this instance, I do not consider that to be the case.

You have the right, under section 28(3) of the Act, to seek an investigation and review of this decision by the Office of the Ombudsman. The postal address of the Office of the Ombudsman is PO Box 10152, Wellington. Alternatively, you can phone 0800 802 602 or email [info@ombudsman.parliament.nz](mailto:info@ombudsman.parliament.nz).

Nāku noa, nā



**Anita Balakrishnan**

Tumuaki / Director, Ministerial, Monitoring, and Capability Group

## Appendix A Documents for OIA request

F = release in full

P = partially withhold

W = withhold in full

#	Name of document	Document date	Release of withhold	Withholding grounds
1.	Smartmatic RFI	15 November 2017	W	9(2)(b)(ii)
2.	Email: RE: Talking the Department of Internal Affairs	29 November 2018	P	9(2)(a)
3.	Smartmatic presentation: Online voting trial for 2019 local authority elections	29 November 2018	F	
4.	Email: Re: Online voting system - authentication	30 November 2018 3:51am	P	9(2)(a)
5.	Email: Re: Online voting system - authentication	30 November 2018 8:57am	P	9(2)(a)
6.	Email: RE: Meeting today	7 December 2018	P	9(2)(a)