

From: [Karl Le Quesne](#)
To: [REDACTED]@coalitionnewzealand.org.nz
Subject: Letter re corrections to be made to a small number of election results
Date: Tuesday, 7 November 2023 6:34:09 pm
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[Party vote changes.pdf](#)
[Nov 7 Communication \[REDACTED\].\(3\).pdf](#)

Tēnā koe

Please find attached a letter to inform you of a small number of data entry errors the Electoral Commission has discovered in the recording of the official results of the election.

Karl Le Quesne (He/Him) | Chief Electoral Officer
Electoral Commission | Te Kaitiaki Take Kōwhiri
PO Box 3220 | 34-42 Manners Street | Wellington |
[vote.nz](#) | [elections.nz](#)



7 November 2023

[REDACTED]
Vision New Zealand
[REDACTED]

Golflands
AUCKLAND 2013

Tēnā koe

Re: Corrections to be made to a small number of results

We are writing to inform you of a small number of data entry errors we have discovered in the recording of the final election results. During this process some votes were recorded in the incorrect row. A table showing these differences is attached to this letter.

We apologise that these transcription errors were not picked up in the checks made before the official results were published. They should have been corrected and we regret that didn't happen.

We were made aware of the transcription errors by a journalist who will be running a story related to this.

When the Commission was alerted, we immediately sought to check and verify the recording of the official results at every voting place across the country. This is almost complete and what we have found so far would not affect the outcome of any electorate seat. We will send you the details when they are ready.

What we do know already is that these transcription errors are isolated to a very small number of voting places, show no intentional pattern, and do not favour any one party or political view. The number of votes involved is low and does not affect the overall results, successful candidates or the allocation of seats. An amended declaration of the official election results will be published on our website and in the New Zealand Gazette.

These data entry errors should have been picked up in the checks made during the official count and we acknowledge that this raises questions about the quality assurance process. The Electoral Commission's Board will commission an independent review of our quality assurance processes.

Ngā mihi



Karl Le Quesne
Chief Electoral Officer



Jane Meares
Acting Board Chair

[Redacted]

From: [Redacted] <[Redacted]@vision.org.nz>
Sent: Monday, November 13, 2023 6:30 PM
To: Dean [Redacted] <[Redacted]y@elections.govt.nz>
Cc: Karl Le Quesne <[Redacted]@elections.govt.nz>; Kristina Temel [Redacted] <[Redacted]@elections.govt.nz>
Subject: Re: [Enquiry Subject] Election advertising enquiry from [Redacted]

Electoral Commission Cyber Security Warning: This email originated from outside of the Commission. Please take extra care when clicking links or opening attachments. When in doubt, contact the IT Service Desk.

Hi Dean,
Thank you for getting back to me, I understand you have been very busy.
However, on behalf of the Management of Vision NZ;

- I don't understand how the choice of Manurewa Marae as a voting place for this election can be justified when the CEO of the Marae was to be a candidate for the Maori Party. Would Destiny Church be able to do that? I think not.
- If the evidence submitted to the Commission does not constitute Treating, then what does?
- What is the point of having rules if threshold for breaching those rules is so high that they are rendered superfluous, and make a mockery of our democratic system.

There is ample proof that the Maori Party have used some unscrupulous methods to contest this election. Therefore, we are depending on the Commission to uphold the integrity of our electoral system by conducting a vigorous investigation into their conduct.

Kind Regards

[Redacted Signature]

Vision New Zealand



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From: Dean [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@elections.govt.nz>

Sent: Monday, 13 November 2023 12:28 pm

To: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@vision.org.nz>

Cc: Karl Le Quesne [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@elections.govt.nz>; Kristina Temel [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@elections.govt.nz>

Subject: RE: [Enquiry Subject] Election advertising enquiry from [REDACTED]

Kia ora [REDACTED]

Further to your telephone conversation with Karl today, I would like to apologise for not advising you of the outcome of your complaint – this was an administrative oversight by me. The email that should have sent to you is copied below.

Ngā mihi

Dean [REDACTED] | Senior Advisor Legal | Electoral Commission | Te Kaitiaki Take Kōwhiri

PO Box 3220 | Level 10, 34-42 Manners Street | Wellington

Phone +[REDACTED]



Treating – Manurewa Marae

The Electoral Commission works to make voting accessible to all communities and to increasing participation within communities that have lower rates of engagement in the electoral process. In selecting voting places, it engages with people in different locations, particularly where voter turnout is low, to understand which potential venues will work for different communities. Following this, a formal assessment is done of each site to ensure it meets the Commission's requirements.

The Manurewa Marae was identified as a potential venue that members of the surrounding community would readily vote in. It was noted that it had recently offered COVID-19 vaccinations, food support and opportunities to participate in the Census. In our discussions with the marae, it was mentioned that they might provide kai and or activities to create a family friendly environment around the voting place. We were clear that the opportunity to receive kai or participate in the activities must be available to anyone coming to the marae and cannot be dependent on people voting. It is not uncommon for a schools or other community organisations to host activities around voting places on this basis.

On 3 October, we were first made aware that the Manurewa Marae was making an association, via a social media post, between voting at the marae and receiving a free hangi. The Electorate Manager contacted the marae management, on the same day, to make it clear that the hangi (or any other incentive) cannot be tied to having voted but should be available to everyone whether they have voted or not. They were asked to amend their posts to reflect this. We received confirmation from our contact at the marae that they are providing kai to anyone who comes to the voting place, and this is not conditional on whether they have voted or not.

On 9 October, the Commission received Vision New Zealand's complaint regarding a social media post by an individual which linked voting for Te Pati Māori to receiving kai at the Manurewa Marae. The Electorate Manager contacted the Marae again. The Marae confirmed again that they are providing kai to anyone who comes to the voting place, and this is not conditional on whether they have voted or not and not linked to voting for any particular party.

Based on the information we have gathered and the assurances from the Manurewa Marae, we will not be taking the matter further.
