

31 July 2024

James

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James

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Tēnā koe James

Official Information Act (OIA) requests: Manurewa Marae, Takutai Tarsh Kemp, and possible use of census data for election purposes

On 2 June 2024, you contacted Stats NZ requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), the following information:

- *All emails, texts and communications relating to complaints about Manurewa Marae and concerns regarding Te Pati Māori and/or Takutai Tarsh Kemp.*

On 2 July 2024, in accordance with section 15A of the Act, the time limit to make a decision on this request was extended to 31 July 2024.

On 10 June 2024, you contacted Stats NZ requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), the following information:

- *All communications if any, regarding the possible use of census data for election purposes at Manurewa Marae between June 1st 2023 and May 31st 2024.*
- *A breakdown of remuneration payable for the collection of census forms via Manurewa Marae. This should include incentives if any for respondents, incentives if any for collectors, hourly rate, completion bonuses if applicable and total amount payable to the agency/contracted party operating out of the Marae that was responsible for the census form collection.*

On 10 July 2024, in accordance with section 15A of the Act, the time limit to make a decision on the first part of this request was extended to 31 July 2024. A response to the second part of this request was provided in full at that time.

As previously advised, Stats NZ is undertaking an investigation into the allegations of misuse of census data collected at Manurewa Marae, led by independent investigator, Doug Craig. The scope of the investigation, and terms of reference, are available on our website at: www.stats.govt.nz/news/scope-of-investigation-into-alleged-misuse-of-census-data/.

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As the investigation has progressed, the scope of interviews to be conducted and the quantity of documentation required to be evaluated has become clearer. This has required effective coordination and communication with other investigations, in particular Te Kawa Mataaho Public Service Commission (PSC) Inquiry into the protection of personal information. The scope of that investigation, and terms of reference, are available on the PSC website at: www.publicservice.govt.nz/news/inquiry-into-the-protection-of-personal-information.

This has also entailed further coordination with additional agencies.

Accordingly, Stats NZ has agreed to extend the timeframe for the investigator to provide his report by an additional month, with a public release date for the resulting report yet to be determined.

Notwithstanding this, Stats NZ has decided to grant your request, with the information currently available, in accordance with our original extension. Please also note that given the investigation is still ongoing, there is a possibility that further relevant information may come to light, in scope of your request. If this occurs, we will notify you of the need to provide you with further information and the date you can expect to receive the information, taking into account the time required to prepare the information for release.

Please note that information in scope is the subject of the ongoing inquiry and investigation, including:

- information received that an attempt was made to alert Stats NZ about the misuse of census data
- information relating to census forms at Manurewa Marae.

Please see attached communications identified in scope of your requests:

Date	Description	Page no.
29 May 2024 – 31 May 2024	Correspondence following media query from Andrea Vance, National Affairs Editor, The Post/Sunday Star-Times, and receipt of Official Information Act request	1-51
30 May 2024	Privacy and Legal team Situation report (SITREP) – re WOCA (Whānau Ora Commissioning Agency) concerns (as they relate to Privacy concerns and legal advice)	52-54
31 May 2024	Legal advice (title withheld)	55-58

You will note within these documents:

- the names of staff members below tier 3 and/or who are not decision-makers have been withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the Act in order to protect the privacy of

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natural persons. The need to protect the privacy of these individuals outweighs the public interest in this information.

- some information is withheld under section 9(2)(h) of the Act in order to maintain legal professional privilege. The greater public interest is in ensuring that government agencies can continue to obtain confidential legal advice.

Please also be advised that some communications in scope of your request have been withheld in full under section 6(c) of the Act. These communications have been identified as being subject to the ongoing investigation, and premature release of this particular information has the potential to undermine the investigation being undertaken. Making this information available would be likely to prejudice the maintenance of the law, including the prevention, investigation and detection of offences.

Please note, section 6(c) of the Act has been applied on a temporary basis and the communications will be assessed and provided to you once the investigation is completed. A member of our team will email you in due course.

Should you wish to discuss this response with us, please feel free to contact Stats NZ at: OfficeoftheGSCE@stats.govt.nz.

If you are not satisfied with this response, you have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or 0800 802 602.

It is Stats NZ's policy to proactively release its responses to official information requests where possible. This letter, with your personal details removed, will be published on the Stats NZ website. Publishing responses creates greater openness and transparency of government decision-making and helps better inform public understanding of the reasons for decisions.

Ngā mihi nui, nā



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