

Hon Simeon Brown

MP for Pakuranga

Minister for Energy
Minister of Local Government
Minister of Transport

Minister for Auckland
Deputy Leader of the House



Dan Moskovitz
fyi-request-27781-b9a733e2@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Dan,

Your Official Information Act 1982 request reference OIA24-309

I am responding to your email of 23 July 2024 requesting the following under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

"I request all advice you have received regarding the decision to reinstate polls on Māori wards in the Local Government (Electoral Legislation and Māori Wards and Māori Constituencies) Amendment Bill."

I am interpreting your request to be for the time period of 27 November 2023 (when Ministers were sworn in) to 23 July 2024 (when your request was lodged).

There are 14 documents that fall within the scope of your request. A list of these can be found in **Table one**.

I am partially releasing nine documents. Some information has been withheld under the following sections of the Act:

- 9(2)(a), to protect the privacy of natural persons;
- 9(2)(f)(iv), to maintain the confidentiality of advice tendered by Ministers of the Crown and officials;
- 9(2)(g)(i), to maintain the effective conduct of public affairs through the free and frank expression of opinions by or between or to Ministers of the Crown or members of an organisation or officers and employees of any public service agency or organisation in the course of their duty;
- 9(2)(h), to maintain legal privilege; and
- 18(d), as the information is or soon will be publicly available.

These documents are attached as **Appendix A**.

I am withholding five documents under section 18(d) of the Act as they are publicly available in the local government section of the Department of Internal Affairs' proactive release website: www.dia.govt.nz/Proactive-Releases.

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

You have the right, under section 28(3) of the Act, to seek a review of my 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.govt.nz.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a stylized 'S' followed by a horizontal line and a 'B' followed by a horizontal line.

Hon Simeon Brown
Minister of Local Government

Table One: Documents in scope

#	Document title	Date	Released or withheld	Reason for withholding
1	[Briefing] Remaining materials for passage of the Local Government (Electoral Legislation and Māori Wards and Māori Constituencies) Amendment Bill	18 July 2024	Partially released	9(2)(a) 9(2)(f)(iv) 18(d)
2	[Briefing] Local Government (Electoral Legislation and Māori Wards and Māori Constituencies) Amendment Bill: Possible further amendments	20 June 2024	Partially released	9(2)(a) 9(2)(g)(i) 9(2)(h)
3	[Briefing] Proactive release of cabinet material related to the Local Government (Electoral Legislation and Māori Wards and Māori Constituencies) Amendment Bill	19 June 2024	Partially released	9(2)(a) 9(2)(f)(iv) 18(d)
4	[Briefing] Local Government (Electoral Legislation and Māori Wards and Māori Constituencies) Amendment Bill: Second reading speech and related documents	19 June 2024	Partially released	9(2)(a)
5	[Briefing] Departmental Report on the Local Government (Electoral Legislation and Māori Wards and Māori Constituencies) Amendment Bill	9 June 2024	Partially released	9(2)(a) 9(2)(g)(i) 9(2)(h)
6	[Briefing] Electoral Omnibus Bill: Approval of Draft Select Committee Initial Briefing	23 May 2024	Partially released	9(2)(a)
7	[Briefing] Local Government (Electoral Legislation and Māori Wards and Māori Constituencies) Amendment Bill: First reading speech and related documents	16 May 2024	Partially released	9(2)(a) 18(d)
8	[Briefing] Final Cabinet paper – Local Government (Electoral Legislation and Māori Wards and Māori Constituencies) Amendment Bill: Approval for Introduction	14 May 2024	Partially released	9(2)(a) 18(d)
9	[Briefing] Further policy decisions for electoral omnibus bill	11 April 2024	Partially released	9(2)(a)
10	[Regulatory Impact Statement] Binding Polls on the Establishment of Māori Wards	14 March 2024	Withheld	18(d)
11	[Briefing] 2025 Elections: Scope and process for Local Electoral Omnibus Bill	1 February 2024	Withheld	18(d)

12	[Briefing] 2025 elections: options for legislation and impacts of potential changes	18 January 2024	Withheld	18(d)
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#	Document title	Date	Released or withheld	Reason for withholding
13	[Briefing] Options for changes to Māori ward processes	20 December 2023	Withheld	18(d)
14	[Briefing] Coalition Policies for local electoral changes	5 December 2023	Withheld	18(d)