

8 July 2026

John Luke

By email to: fyi-request-34992-7823ef86@requests.fyi.org.nz

Kia ora John

OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT REQUEST 2026/45

On Sunday, 28 June 2026, you made a request under the Official Information Act 1982 (the OIA) for the following information:

1. Copies of the nomination documents submitted by Lyra Yan Zhang for the election. I note that she previously stood for election to the Porirua City Council under the name "Yan Zhang", and I am seeking the nomination documents submitted for her current candidacy.

2. Copies of any conflict of interest declarations or disclosures that she has provided to the Electoral Commission as part of her candidacy.

3. Copies of any declaration relating to bankruptcy, if such a declaration was required or provided as part of the nomination process.

4. Copies of any name change certificate or other supporting documentation provided to verify a change of name.

I also understand that Ms Zhang is reportedly a member of the Chinese Zhi Gong Party. In this regard, I would also like to request information on the Electoral Commission's policies or guidance concerning candidates who are members of a foreign political party. Specifically: Does the Electoral Commission have any policy, rule, or legal requirement that prevents or restricts a member of a foreign political party from standing as a candidate in a New Zealand election?

1. Copies of the nomination documents submitted by Lyra Yan Zhang for the election. I note that she previously stood for election to the Porirua City Council under the name "Yan Zhang", and I am seeking the nomination documents submitted for her current candidacy.

The Electoral Commission has not received any nomination documents from any candidates for the 2026 General Election, so this aspect of your request is declined under section 18(e) of the OIA.

Nominations for candidates standing at the 2026 General Election do not open until Monday 7 September 2026.

2. Copies of any conflict of interest declarations or disclosures that she has provided to the Electoral Commission as part of her candidacy.

Please refer to our response to question 1.

3. Copies of any declaration relating to bankruptcy, if such a declaration was required or provided as part of the nomination process.

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4. Copies of any name change certificate or other supporting documentation provided to verify a change of name.

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I would also like to request information on the Electoral Commission's policies or guidance concerning candidates who are members of a foreign political party. Specifically: Does the Electoral Commission have any policy, rule, or legal requirement that prevents or restricts a member of a foreign political party from standing as a candidate in a New Zealand election?

The rules for who can stand as a candidate at a parliamentary election are provided in the Electoral Act 1993. There is no requirement for a candidate to declare whether they are or have been a member of a foreign political party.

To stand as a candidate, the key legal requirements are that the person:

- is a New Zealand citizen,
- is a registered elector.

The Electoral Commission's guidance on standing as a candidate is available on the elections.nz website: [Becoming a candidate in the 2026 General Election | Elections NZ](#).

In the interests of transparency, we release responses to Official Information Act requests every 3 months. We will publish this response with your personal details redacted.

You have the right under section 28(3) of the OIA to make a complaint to the Ombudsman if you are not satisfied with the response to your request. Information about how to do this is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or by phoning 0800 802 602.

Yours sincerely



Natalie McNaught
Manager, Legal, Regulation and Policy