

30 November 2022

Section (9) (2) (a)

Our ref: OIA 101015

Tēnā koe **Section**  
(9) (2) (a)

### Official Information Act request: Electoral Commission

Thank you for your email of 1 November 2022, to the Office of the Prime Minister, requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), information relating to the Electoral Commission. Specifically, you requested:

*Would it be possible to have the Election Commission undertake candidate profiles like they do for local body elections for the Parliamentary Elections as these candidates get no profile apart from their name mentioned by the Electoral Commission. Please could you take action for this to happen for this coming general election next year? Please. Under the Official Information Act, has this ever been looked at or planned to be looked at?*

On 14 November 2022, your request was transferred to the Ministry of Justice for response, in accordance with section 14 of the Act.

I understand that you are referring to the ability in local elections for candidates to provide profile statements under sections 61 and 62 of the Local Electoral Act 2001. You have asked if the Commission can require candidates in parliamentary elections to provide similar profile statements.

To provide you with some context, the Electoral Act 1993 sets out the rules relating to parliamentary elections. Currently, the Act does not provide for the provision of candidate profile statements, and therefore the Electoral Commission does not have the power to require such statements from candidates.

However, you may be interested to know that there is an Independent Review of Electoral Law considering potential changes to our electoral law for future elections. You can find further information at: [beehive.govt.nz/release/independent-panel-appointed-review-electoral-law](https://www.beehive.govt.nz/release/independent-panel-appointed-review-electoral-law).

The Review Panel will begin its second round of public consultation in mid-2023 after releasing its draft recommendations. You may wish to provide your suggestions and feedback to the Panel at that time.

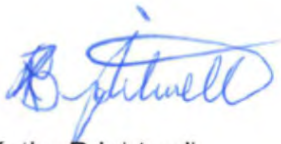
In response to your question about whether this matter has ever been looked at, or if there are plans to look at it, there is no information on the issue of candidate profiles for parliamentary elections. There are no plans at this time to look at this matter, given the Independent Review of

Electoral Law that is currently underway. I am therefore refusing your request under section 18(e) of the Act, as the information does not exist.

Please note that this response, with your personal details removed, may be published on the Ministry website at: [justice.govt.nz/about/official-information-act-requests/oa-responses/](https://justice.govt.nz/about/official-information-act-requests/oa-responses/).

If you are not satisfied with my response, you have the right to complain to the Ombudsman under section 28(3) of the Act. The Ombudsman may be contacted by email at [info@ombudsman.parliament.nz](mailto:info@ombudsman.parliament.nz) or by phone at 0800 802 602.

Nāku noa, nā



Kathy Brightwell  
**General Manager, Civil and Constitutional**