

14 December 2022

Section (9) (2) (a)

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Our ref: OIA 101250

Tēnā koe Secti

Official Information Act request: Electoral Review submissions

Thank you for your email of 16 November 2022, to the Electoral Review Secretariat requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), all submissions and public feedback to date on the Independent Electoral Review.

The information you have requested is deemed to be held by the Minister of Justice, Hon Kiri Allan under section 2(2)(d) of the Act. Given the separation between the Minister and the Independent Electoral Review panel, your request was transferred to the Ministry of Justice for response under section 14 of the Act.

I can confirm that the first round of public engagement has been completed, with the second round due to begin in May 2023. In the first engagement round, the Independent Electoral Review panel received about 1,700 written submissions from the following groups:

- General public
- Academics
- Central government and regulatory bodies
- Civil society
- Disabled community organisations
- Local government
- Māori
- Media
- Overseas voters
- Political parties and politicians
- Professional organisations
- Rainbow community organisations
- Rural community organisations
- Youth organisations

There is work underway to publish the submissions alongside a summary of submissions on the Independent Electoral Review website at: electoralreview.govt.nz/. It is anticipated these will be available in early March 2023. Given the large number of submissions received and the substantial collation required, we would be unable to provide the submissions to you ahead of publication. We would be happy to notify you via email once they are published. Therefore, I am refusing your request under section 18(d) of the Act, on the basis that the information will soon be publicly

available. Please note that the dates between 25 December 2022 to 15 January 2023 are not working days for the purposes of the Act.

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/oia-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 or by phone at 0800 802 602.

Nāku noa, nā

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Brightwell', with a small mark above the 'i'.

Kathy Brightwell
General Manager, Civil & Constitutional