

4 July 2023

Section 9(2)(a)

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Our ref: OIA 105137

Tēnā koe Section 9(2)(a)

Official Information Act request: Independent Electoral Review information

Thank you for your email of 8 June 2023, requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), information regarding the Independent Electoral Review. Your requests and my responses are set out below:

How are Electoral Review panel members chosen, who makes the final decision and why were the current members chosen? Please provide any person specification used when recruiting members.

In July 2021, Cabinet agreed that members of the review panel should ideally reflect the diversity of New Zealand and collectively have the following attributes:

- an understanding of and/or expertise in electoral law, the electoral system and wider constitutional and legal principles;
- public credibility and the ability to engage with a broad range of people;
- familiarity with te ao Māori and ability to credibly engage with Māori communities and stakeholders and
- leadership and expertise in steering a project of this significance, including working with a secretariat.

You can read further about this here: [justice.govt.nz/assets/Advancing-Electoral Reform papers-combined.pdf](https://justice.govt.nz/assets/Advancing-Electoral-Reform-papers-combined.pdf).

In October 2021, the Minister of Justice (then Hon. Kris Faafoi) called for nominations for an independent panel to lead the review. Nominations were sought from political parties, Māori organisations, the New Zealand Law Society, youth organisations, universities and government agencies.

The Ministry of Justice (the Ministry) supported the Minister in assessing and selecting candidates for the review panel. Once candidates were shortlisted for interviews, to avoid any perception of departmental influence or bias, the Ministry established an independent external interview panel to interview and assess shortlisted candidates and make recommendations.

Candidate interviews were undertaken between January – March 2022, with the criteria established by Cabinet (detailed above) explored in the interviews. The interview panel

produced a report and recommendations to the Ministry at the end of March 2022. The Interview Panel's recommendations were then provided to the Minister. The Minister made the final decisions and notified Cabinet of his intention to make the six appointments to the review panel.

Are panel members paid? This could be a salary, expenses or reimbursement. Please provide a total figure for how much the members have claimed either in expenses, allowance or reimbursement since 24th May 2022.

Panel members are remunerated for their time, in line with the Cabinet Fees Framework. This is set out in paragraph 28 of the Independent Electoral Review Terms of Reference, which you can access here: electoralreview.govt.nz/assets/PDF/independent-electoral-law-review-terms-of-reference.pdf.

They are remunerated on a daily rate basis. As of 20 June 2023, the total figure claimed in fees and expenses is \$344,771.99 (excluding GST).

How much was spent on designing and creating the Electoral Review website?

A total of \$185,265.97 (excluding GST) was spent on creating the website.

How much does it cost to maintain the website?

It costs \$1,098.00 per month (excluding GST) to maintain the website.

Please provide us with the traffic metrics (numbers of 'hits') for each month since the website was launched.

Since the launch of the website in August 2022, the traffic metrics have been:

Month	Views
Aug-22	385
Sep-22	4164
Oct-22	21979
Nov-22	9423
Dec-22	431
Jan-23	394
Feb-23	249
Mar-23	601
Apr-23	304
May-23	645
Jun-23	12355
Jul-23*	449

**views for July are until 3 July 2023.*

Breakdown the graphic design costs associated with the Electoral Review's interim report

As the interim report was designed within the Ministry, there were no graphic design costs associated. Therefore, I am refusing this part of your request under section 18(e) of the Act, as the requested information does not exist.

If you require any further information, please contact Media & Social Media Manager Joe Locke at media@justice.govt.nz.

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 this response, you have the right to make a complaint to the Ombudsman under section 28(3) of the Act. The Office of the Ombudsman may be contacted by email to info@ombudsman.parliament.nz or by phone on 0800 802 602.

Nāku noa, nā



Kathy Brightwell

General Manager, Civil & Constitutional