

12/09/23

By email to: [REDACTED]

Tēnā koe [REDACTED]

OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT REQUEST 2023/39

On Wednesday 16 August 2023 you made a request under the Official Information Act 1982 (the OIA) for the following information:

I wish to seek a copy of all communications that the Electoral Commission has had with Harry Tam, as mentioned in the reply to Parliamentary Written Question 20116 (2023). For the phone call communications, I request all recollections from the phone call that the Electoral Commission staff members have. Where information is withheld, I request that you provide the title and date of the communication/document withheld, the reason for refusal, and the grounds in support of that reason as required by section 19(a) of the Official Information Act.

Part of the Commission's role is to raise awareness with the public on how to get ready to vote. This includes enrolment and voting period information. The Commission also addresses any barriers to participation through building community understanding of voting eligibility for all New Zealanders, why voting is important, and to support confidence for voters to take part.

Therefore, we include a broad range of communities in our planning and engagement activity. It is part of the Commission's statutory role to work with all communities to help them understand and take part in elections and support eligible voters to meet their legal obligation to be enrolled.

Below is a copy of the [WPQ 20116 \(2023\)](#) as a reference to your request with the respective email attachments (noted as appendices) aligned to the corresponding date(s). With regards to the 19/5/23 contact noted in the WPQ, this is a transcribed phone call made to our contact centre. Further to this, the emails provided make note of any phone calls and provide summaries of the conversations held.

Date	Summary of Communication	Appendix
19/5/23	Enquiries team received contact from Harry Tam seeking the Commission to attend and provide enrolment and voting information for a planned hui in June 2023	Refer to Appendix 1
24/5/23 - 13/6/23	Correspondence between Mr Tam and the Commission organising logistics for the Hawkes Bay hui on 17 June, and invitation to the Dunedin hui.	Refer to Appendix 2 & 2.1

17/6/23	Hawkes Bay hui (Takapau). 25 members in attendance as well as children, other whānau members, and two Commission staff. Information discussed related to enrolment information, Māori Electoral Option, and voting.	Refer to Appendix 2 & 2.1
21/6/23	A phone and email exchange with Mr Tam seeking Commission attendance at a hui in Maraenui, Napier (9 July). Mr Tam enquired if the Commission would be able to fund his travel to different regions in support of engagement with gangs.	Refer to Appendix 3
26/6/23	Mr Tam was informed that the Commission would not provide funding for his travel costs. Emails exchanged regarding Maraenui and Dunedin hui.	Refer to Appendix 3
28/6/23	Phone call and follow up emails between Mr Tam and Commission regarding logistics for Dunedin meeting. The Commission responded noting: <i>"The Electoral Commission remains neutral / apolitical at all times. Our team will remain onsite to assist with completion and collection of the enrolment forms. However, can they please be excused prior to your kōrero with your members."</i>	Refer to Appendix 4
1/7/23	Dunedin hui at Corstophine Community Hub, 40-50 people in attendance alongside two Commission staff. The Commission presented information related to the Māori Electoral Option, the difference between the Māori and general roll, the difference between Māori and general electorates, voting, and enrolment. Participants were provided with enrolment forms. Commission staff left the room while the hui continued, returning to collect completed enrolment forms once the hui was concluded	Refer to Appendices 2, 2.1, 3 & 4
4/7/23	Email from Commission to Mr Tam acknowledging that Commission staff would not be able to attend upcoming events in Waipawa or Maraenui	Refer to Appendices 2, 2.1, 3 & 5

Some contact details, such as phone numbers, email addresses and some names have been withheld under s 9(2)(a) of the OIA which relates to the privacy of natural persons.

In each case where redactions have been made under section 9(2)(a), consideration has been given to and I am satisfied that the reasons for withholding of the information are not outweighed by other considerations which render it desirable, in the public interest to make that information available.

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 Act 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.

Ngā mihi,



Shane Whitfield
Director Strategic Engagement & Partnerships