

1 July 2022

Dr Bryce Edwards
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Our ref: OIA 96540

Tēnā koe Dr Edwards

Official Information Act request: Submissions on proposed changes to political donation rules in our electoral law

Thank you for your email of 27 May 2022 requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), information regarding submissions on proposed changes to political donation rules. Specifically, you asked:

... I'm taking a close interest in the Ministry's work on the "Proposed changes to political donation rules in our electoral law".

In this regard, I wondered if it would be possible to get copies of the submissions and feedback received by the Ministry on this.

The Ministry received 276 submissions on the proposed changes to political donation rules, 269 through public consultation and 7 through targeted consultation. I have attached copies of these submissions to this letter. These have not been provided in any particular order.

Please note that on submissions received by email, the name of the staff member who collated these appeared on the top left-hand corner of the email. This has been marked as out of scope to avoid any confusion.

Some information has been withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the Act to protect the privacy of natural persons.

Three submissions which were received from political parties have been withheld in full under s9(2)(ba)(i) of the Act to protect information, which is subject to an obligation of confidence, where release would be likely to prejudice the supply of similar information, and it is in the public interest that such information should continue to be supplied.

The political parties which the Ministry received submissions from provided these on a confidential basis. These parties may not have provided submissions if they knew they were going to be identified, so it would be within the public interest to withhold their submissions as release of this would likely prejudice the supply of similar information and it is in the public interest that the Ministry can continue to consult with political parties in the future.

I am satisfied that there are no public interest considerations that render it desirable to make the information being withheld under section 9 of the Act available.

Some of the organisations who provided submissions through targeted consultation have already published their submissions online. I am therefore refusing to provide those submissions under section 18(d) of the Act as the information is already publicly available. The organisations and their submissions are listed below.

- Chartered Accountants Australia & New Zealand - charteredaccountantsanz.com/news-and-analysis/advocacy/policy-submissions/submission-on-consultation-on-political-donations-reforms
- National Māori Authority - maorieverywhere.com/single-post/call-for-political-donation-reform-consider-fully-funding-elections-to-avoid-corruption
- Transparency International New Zealand - transparency.org.nz/blog/submission-political-party-donations-consultation

If you are not satisfied with my response, you have the right to complain to the Ombudsman under section 28(3) of the Act. You can contact the Office of the Ombudsman by emailing: info@ombudsman.parliament.nz.

Nāku noa, nā



Kathy Brightwell
General Manager, Civil and Constitutional, Policy Group

Encl: *Submissions on proposed changes to proposed changes to political donation rules*