

28/07/23

By email to: [REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT REQUEST 2023/26

On Saturday 22 July 2023 we received a request from you under the Official Information Act 1982 (the OIA) for the following information:

I understand someone in the Manawatu district has made a complaint about the Stop Co-Governance pamphlet that has been provided by the organisation for the past three months or more.

It is my understanding the pamphlet has been widely circulated as information to help people understand the issues related to what the Government is proposing to do to change the democratic business of our law making.

In accordance with the OIA could you please provide to me and Mr Julian Batchelor the following information.

- 1. A copy of the complaint, that provides both the name of the complaint and the date of the complaint.*
- 2. The copy of the pamphlet that you have checked at your office.*
- 3. The date on which you received the pamphlet.*
- 4. Your stated reasons why you suggest this pamphlet is an "election advertisement".*
- 5. Who do you suggest has authorised this "advertisement", when clearly it has never been an advertisement. Please provide your statement that confirms your decision.*
- 6. Please quote the specific wording in the pamphlet that has been complained about..*
- 7. If the pamphlet was an "election advertisement" then why was it not made available until after the 14 July? Please provide your statement as to the timing of the complaint.*
- 8. The statemen made by your office that suggests the pamphlet was not authorised as a "election advertisement"?*

A photocopy of the pamphlet provided to the Electoral Commission by the complainant is attached.

The complaint was received from a member of the public by email on 15 July 2023.

A copy of our email to Mr Batchelor making further enquiries about the complaint we received is publicly available and is attached to this response. We have only included material within scope of your request and redacted parts that are out of scope.

The Commission is not able to provide the other information you requested as it relates to a complaint in respect of which enquiries are ongoing. This aspect of your request is therefore refused under s6(c) of the OIA on the basis that disclosure of the information requested would likely prejudice the maintenance of the law, including the prevention, detection and investigation of offences.

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.

Yours sincerely



Kristina Temel
Manager Legal and Policy

Attachments

1. Scan of pamphlet
2. Electoral Commission email to Julian Batchelor (21 July 2023)