



## Te Tari Taiwhenua Internal Affairs

17 December 2021

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G S

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Dear G S

### Your Official Information Act request, reference OIA2122-0413

Thank you for your email of 16 November 2021 to the Department of Internal Affairs (the Department) requesting the following documents under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act).

*"I request the following information related to your consultation this year about Māori wards and constituencies (July to August 2021, not the earlier legislative change):*

*A copy of all submissions*

*A copy of any summary of submissions*

*A copy of any policy paper already considered by the Minister of Local Government."*

We have interpreted this request as policy papers about stage two of the Local Electoral (Māori Wards and Māori Constituencies) Amendment Bill. I am refusing your request for copies of all submissions and a summary of submissions, under section 18(d) of the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), as this information will soon be publicly available.

Please find the documents that fall within scope of your request attached and listed at **Appendix A**. I am releasing to you in full the briefing titled *Local Electoral Amendment Bill – revised scope and Māori wards engagement approach*.

The remaining four documents have either been withheld in full or in part under the following section of the Act:

- 9(2)(f)(iv) – to maintain the constitutional conventions for the time being which protect the confidentiality of advice tendered by Ministers of the Crown and officials.

Document three is being released as an excerpt document under section 16(1)(e) of the Act. These extracts are portions of status reports to the Minister between the period of 1 July 2021 and 11 November 2021 that are within scope of the request.

The following proactive release which falls within scope of your request is available on the Department of Internal Affairs website:

- Proactive release of Cabinet material about consultation on changes to Māori wards and Māori constituency establishment processes 9 July 2021 at:  
[www.dia.govt.nz/diawebsite.nsf/Files/Maori-wards-consultation/\\$file/Public-consultation-on-changes-to-M%C4%81ori-ward-and-M%C4%81ori-constituency-processes-Cabinet-paper-and-related-minute.pdf](http://www.dia.govt.nz/diawebsite.nsf/Files/Maori-wards-consultation/$file/Public-consultation-on-changes-to-M%C4%81ori-ward-and-M%C4%81ori-constituency-processes-Cabinet-paper-and-related-minute.pdf)

As is required by section 9(1) of the Act, I have considered whether the grounds for withholding information is outweighed by other considerations which would make it desirable, in the public interest, to make that information available. In this instance, I do not consider that to be the case.

You have the right, under section 28(3) of the Act, to seek an investigation and review of this decision by the Office of the Ombudsman. The postal address of the Office of the Ombudsman is PO Box 10152, Wellington. Alternatively, you can phone 0800 802 602 or email [info@ombudsman.parliament.nz](mailto:info@ombudsman.parliament.nz).

We intend to publish our response to your request on [www.dia.govt.nz](http://www.dia.govt.nz). This letter, with your personal details removed, will be published in its entirety. Publishing responses increases the availability of information to the public and is consistent with the Act's purpose of enabling more effective participation in the making and administration of laws and policies and promoting the accountability of Ministers and officials.

Naku noa, nā



**pp. Anita Balakrishnan**

Tumuaki / Director

Ministerial, Monitoring, and Capability Group

## Appendix A: documents in scope

R = release in full

P = partially release

W = withhold in full

#	Name of document	Document date	Release or withhold	Withholding grounds
1.	Stage 2 legislative reform for Māori wards and constituencies	13 April 2021	R	
2.	Local Electoral Amendment Bill – revised scope and Māori wards engagement approach	28 May 2021	P	9(2)(f)(iv)
3.	Excerpts of Status Report 1 July 2021 – 11 November 2021	1 July 2021 – 11 November 2021	P	9(2)(f)(iv)
4.	Policy decisions on Stage 2 changes for Māori wards	24 September 2021	W	9(2)(f)(iv)
5.	Final Cabinet papers for lodging: Improving representation and participation processes for local government elections – Māori electoral representation	15 November 2021	W	9(2)(f)(iv)