



**Te Tari Taiwhenua
Internal Affairs**

15 December 2021

CHARITIES SERVICES
45 Pipitea Street, Wellington 6011
PO Box 12318, Thorndon, Wellington
6011, New Zealand
Freephone 0508242748
www.charities.govt.nz
dia.govt.nz

Rex Widerstrom

Sent via email to:

fyi-request-17623-845a0399@requests.fyi.org.nz

Tēnā koe Rex

Official Information Act 1982 Request – OIA 2122-0425

Thank you for your Official Information Act (the Act) request which was received by the Department of Internal Affairs (Charities Services) on 19 November 2021. Your request follows:

It has been widely reported that several complaints have been submitted referring to the charitable status of Destiny Church. I therefore ask, under the provisions of the Official Information Act:

- 1. How many such complaints have been accepted as having prima facie validity?*
- 2. How many, if any, are currently under investigation?*
- 3. What is the expected date of completion of any active investigations?*
- 4. Have any such investigations been concluded?*
- 5. If so, what was the outcome?*

Please note that there are a number of registered charities related to Destiny Church. These are recorded on the Charities Register, which can be searched here: [Charities Register Search](#).

In response to your request, I can advise that Charities Services received 28 complaints about Destiny Church between 22 September 2021 to date. I can also advise that Charities Services has recently decided to open an initial inquiry into four Destiny Church charities to request information from those charities and seek clarification about the matters that have been raised by the complainants.

As this matter is now subject to our regulatory processes, I must refuse the remainder of your request pursuant to section 6(c) of the Act. This is because making that information available would be likely to prejudice the maintenance of the law.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review of my decisions about your request by the Ombudsman pursuant to section 28(1) of the Act. The Office of the Ombudsman can be contacted by writing to PO Box 10-152, Wellington or by email to info@ombudsman.parliament.nz.

Nāku noa, nā

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Stephen Reilly', with a stylized, cursive script.

Stephen Reilly
Manager Regulatory | Kaiwhakahaere Waeture
Charities Services | Ngā Ratonga Kaupapa Atawhai