

6 July 2022

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Tēnā koe John

OIA request 21/22 0818 Request for Request for information on Community Organisation Grants Scheme (COGS) Local Distribution Committees (LDC)

Thank you for your Official Information Act (Act) request received by the Department of Internal Affairs (Department) on 7 June 2022.

You requested -

I noted on your website,

Elections for the COGS LDCs will be happening from 23 September 2019 to 11 October 2019

May I ask when is your next election for the COGS Local Distribution Committee. Are they on the same date for all COGS committee or they are different per region. Can you please list all current COGS committee around the country and all member's name for each committee. Also, if available the bio for each committee's member.

In response to your request I can provide you with the following information.

I can confirm that election dates are currently being worked through and will be put on the Community Matters website once they have been determined. This portion of your request is therefore refused pursuant to section 18(d) of the Act; the information requested will soon be publicly available.

I note that the elections are preceded by a nomination process which will also be put on the website. This process will start in August 2022, and is expected to conclude by the end of October 2022.

It may be helpful for me to explain that elections only take place in regions where there are a larger number of nominees than there are positions on the committee, so do not occur in every region. I can confirm however, that the timing of the elections that do take place happen consistently across the country and are managed centrally.

A list of the COGS LDCs and the names of all their current members can be found on the Community Matters website here: <u>Ask Us » Community Matters</u>. This portion of your request is therefore refused pursuant to section 18(d) of the Act; that the information requested is publicly available.

I must advise that there are approximately 260 members and so the portion of your request relating to member bios is refused pursuant to section 18(f) of the Act; the information requested cannot be made available without substantial collation or research.

Should there be specific members whose biographies you are interested in, you may submit a request for this information through to SDOOfficialCorrespondence@dia.govt.nz. Please note that not all members will have biographies, as those who were elected by co-option are not required to submit one.

As this information may be of interest to other members of the public, the Department has decided to proactively release a copy of this response on the DIA website. All requestor data, including your name and contact details, will be removed prior to release. The released response will be made available here: https://www.dia.govt.nz/Official-Information-Act-Requests-2.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this decision. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or freephone 0800 802 602.

Ngā mihi

Julia Taylor

Manager Operational Policy and Official Correspondence Service Delivery and Operations