



EXECUTIVE COUNCIL CHAMBERS

26 October 2022

Lance Watson

fyi-request-20792-5fd972dc@requests.fyi.org.nz

Ref: OIA-2022/23-0219

Dear Lance Watson

Official Information Act request: The New Zealand Flag Referendum Gallery

1 Thank you for your Official Information Act (OIA) request received on 8 October 2022. You have asked the following questions about the public flag design submissions that were on the Flag Consideration Panel's website www.flag.govt.nz:

“Was the gallery of 10,291 submissions retained and stored somewhere? Or was it deleted? If it was retained, is it still available for public viewing somehow?”

2 The Flag Consideration Project 2015-2016 led to two referenda on changing the New Zealand flag. Two flag-related websites were created to support the process: www.flag.govt.nz and www.standfor.co.nz. The www.flag.govt.nz website provided information on the project and displayed the public's flag design submissions. Both websites were decommissioned in 2016 after the referenda concluded.

3 The submitted flag designs were retained and stored by the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet in electronic form. The designs are available on request, by contacting the Deputy Secretary of the Cabinet (Constitutional and Honours) using the Cabinet Office's contact details.

4 Those details and further information about the project, including all the Cabinet papers relating to the Flag Consideration Project, are on DPMC's website at [Flag Consideration Project | Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet \(DPMC\)](#).

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5 Please note that you have the right to ask the Ombudsman to investigate and review my decision under section 28(3) of the Act.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Rg Hayward". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

Rachel Hayward
Acting Clerk of the Executive Council