



2 December 2022

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Chris McCashin

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Dear Chris,

Your Official Information Act 1982 request, reference OIA 22/23-0360

Thank you for your email of 6 November 2022 requesting the following under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

"I understand per a previous OIA the software for STV local body elections was outsourced to a private company

Please provide

- Procurement process and companies involved in process*
- Recommendation associated with awarding contract*
- Name of company awarded contract*
- Contract terms*
- Effectively any and all memos formal and informal and the process that was went through to award the contract to the company and the company that won*
- Including personnel at DIA that were involved including consultants."*

I can advise that in 2001, Te Tari Taiwhenua | the Department of Internal Affairs (Te Tari) contracted Information Power Limited (IPL) to develop a Single Transferable Vote (STV) calculator. The IPL calculator came to be known as both the 'beta' and 'back-up' calculator. It has never been actively utilised in any local body elections and was decommissioned in 2016.

In 2003, Te Tari contracted Cap Gemini New Zealand (CGNZ) to develop a new STV calculator. The CGNZ calculator is known as the main calculator and has been used in all local body elections utilising the STV method since it was introduced in 2004.

Decision on your request

We have interpreted your request to be asking for contracts only for the companies where the STV calculator was used in the local body elections. One document is within scope of this request, entitled *Cap Gemini Software Agreement*.

Te Tari's decision is to release this document to you under the Act, however consultation with the CGNZ is necessary before we release this document to you. We anticipate we can deliver the document to you, by email, by 21 December 2022.

Please note there may be some information withheld under the Act. Where this applies, it will be clearly noted.

We have been unable to locate any further information within scope of your request. The information relating to the STV software contract is now over 20 years old and may have been paper based. Therefore, the parts of your request for procurement information and internal memos is refused under section 18(e) of the Act, as despite reasonable efforts to locate the documents alleged to contain the information, these cannot be found.

All information about the companies who were unsuccessful during the procurement process to develop an STV calculator is withheld under section 9(2)(b)(ii) of the Act. Making this information available would be unreasonably likely to prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied or who is the subject of the information.

Over the past 20 years, numerous Te Tari staff and external consultants have been involved with the STV Calculator. It is not possible to provide a comprehensive list of all personnel involved as no such list exists. This is refused as per section 18(e) of the Act.

Other information

You may find it useful to know that for a concise summary of the STV and how it works, more information is available at www.stv.govt.nz.

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. Information is available on the website www.ombudsman.parliament.nz. Alternatively, you can phone 0800 802 602 or email info@ombudsman.parliament.nz.

We intend to publish our response to your request on 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.

Nāku noa nā



Anita Balakrishnan

Tumuaki | Director Ministerial, Monitoring, and Capability