

This report covers the main activities undertaken by the group/business unit for the period. It excludes the GE23 Programme or by-elections, which are reported on through separate channels.

Progress against the strategic priorities

Building our capability

- This month Ngā Maihi Team (Māori advisory) have led out/participated in the following events: Staff Training development; development in the ECHO space; Nga Maihihioterā presentations; MEO history resource development and presentations; Recruitment – CE Manager interviews; Te Ao Māori planning recruitment, IAP2 alignment table and training; Whakatau Whangarei Office, Auckland Office and online for various gatherings including our Wananga.

Preparing for an election

- This month Ngā Maihi Team have led out/participated in the following activities/events: Kaupapa Māori voting places; Recruitment – MEO contracted groups procurement; Te Reo Māori translations (translation and editing) for the MEO Campaign, for the MEO brochure recordings for our website, for GE2023 Campaign; Website review (MEO); Telnet resources and recordings; MEO Campaign Launch; procurement and implementation - translators for collateral in regional dialects.

Preparing for the future

- This month Ngā Maihi Team have led out/participated in the following activities/events: Compiled/created Herstory of the Māori Vote (version 2 loaded – future EC resource) signalling the importance of the new MEO legislation to staff, induction with People & Culture.

Building relationships and understanding

- This month Ngā Maihi Team have led out/participated in the following activities/events: Meetings with various community groups including Te Pae Herenga o Tamaki who represent Ngati Whatua Runanga, Waipareira, Te Puna Hauora, Manukau urban authority, Manurewa Marae, Papakura Marae, Ruapotaka Marae to strengthen these relationships and communicate our plan regarding voting booths (Reo and kaupapa Māori) and community outreach, Various meetings across the organisation educating, affirming and motivating colleagues, Media coverage Te Karere, Te Ao, Wātea radio, Ngati Porou FM, Awa FM, Te Upoko o Te Ika FM – MEO campaign and messages, planning for Australian EC Delegation visit and engagement with tangata whenua.

This report covers the main activities undertaken by the group/business unit for the period. It excludes the GE23 Programme or by-elections, which are reported on through separate channels.

Progress against the strategic priorities

Building our capability

An update on the work programme of Enterprise Services was presented at the All Staff meeting on 10 March. The one page summary has been included at the end of this report.

The FY24 budgets have moved past the first draft and will be presented to the ELT on 4th April, and following another period of review will progress to the Board for final approval on the 12th April. Contract management plans have been drafted and some finalised, with several key suppliers to the Commission, that sets up the framework for relationship management, service delivery and administration of the contract for better management moving forward. The transition from OPD to Office Max as our preferred stationery supplier took place.

The P&C teams' presentation of the draft *People Analytics Monthly Dashboard* to ELT as a first version for feedback was well received. The dashboard will give people leaders with visual feedback to support decision making. The management and reporting on Health Safety and Wellbeing is now transferred over to the P&C team.

The *SLG Wānanga* was held on 7 March and the All Staff *wānanga* on 16 March. This promoted the EC values across the Commission. Further decisions are being made for further opportunities to build the culture and capability of our people.

Software enhancements for Mike and Enrol Online to support MEO were successfully released to Production and there is also an April release to EMS planned with testing underway now. We are migrating the new UVP web server to Catalyst Cloud which will provide significant improvements to the legacy UVP. This month we have also completed the setup and testing of the Single Sign On module for Totara (Tupu).

IT and the procurement team are progressing the contract management plan for the Catalyst MSA as well as a new support agreement for Adaptive as part of the ARTS Project.

Preparing for an election

Business as usual contracts which may require SoW's to be raised to deliver the election, have now been extended prior to their 30 June 2023 expiry dates to relieve pressure on the business if SoW are required. Procurement plan for the Visitor Management System was signed and required hardware has been ordered.

Our external provider, IMPAC, delivered the first round of training for Health Safety Wellbeing for Voting Services, and de-escalation training for Community Engagement.

The Electorate Managers were onboarded, and Head Quarter Manager roles were advertised. Applications were received for all electorates except two where no applications were received. We received on average 3.48 applications per electorate.

The Application and Patching Change freeze and brown out periods were agreed at the March GE Steering Group. Changes to the Party Portal have been agreed with Legal & Policy to improve the way Party Secretaries login to the EMS nominations module. Testing of that system is being completed over the week of 3-6 April. Penetration testing of ARTS middleware has just been completed and result being reviewed. Other testing completed includes, Nominations Testing with Legal & Policy and installation of PrintScript for Overseas/CPT.

Preparing for the future

Sensitive Expenditure policies (including business expenditure, credit card usage, purchase card usage, probity and travel policies) are the next set of policies to be reviewed and amended for consultation. The draft procurement policy has been approved by the Board and will go out for wider consultation in April, alongside the new procurement procedures. The Health Safety and Wellbeing Policy was approved by the Board at the March meeting.

Contract pipelines have been developed and shared with the business so resource and planning can commence for future tender requirements.

We are establishing an automated test suite for EMS and kicked off a system documentation project with Catalyst.

Building relationships and understanding

Training has been completed for all VS and ECE Regional Advisors and Regional managers on invoice approvals and P-Card usage.

Concept planning has started on the Financial Literacy module for new and existing managers and budget holders.

We welcomed the Communications Team on the 4th floor this month.

Other progress

- There is still a large focus on GETP activities.

Issues under management

- Recruitment for the Health Safety and Wellbeing role and IT roles continue to be a challenge with the IT team only recruiting two roles in March with a further 6 to recruit. We also had offers for the Procurement Advisor role but due to an internal promotion for both our preferred candidates we are waiting for the new Manager Property and Procurement to start to re-advertise.

Other news

- 9(2)(a) and 9(2)(a) finished up at EC on 31 March 2023
- The permanent Assistant Accountant role will be filled in the next few weeks.
- 9(2)(a) is being appointed to the Principal Advisor People.
- Morgan 9(2)(a) has been appointed as Cyber Security Analyst and starts on 20 April.
- Himanshu 9(2)(a) has been appointed as Senior Systems Administrator and starts on 10 April.
- We continue to recruit for 2x Solution Architects, 1x Senior Systems Administrator, 1x Systems Administrator, 1 x Administration Officer and 1 x Senior Systems Specialist.
- The Manager Property and Procurement is due to start 1 May 2023.

ENTERPRISE SERVICES



2022

- ✓ Established
- ✓ "Have Your Say"
- ✓ Business Central (FMIS Phase 1)
- ✓ Snaphire for non-GE
- ✓ Pay gap action plan
- ✓ Reforecast



2023

- ✓ Solver (FMIS Phase 2)
 - ✓ Code of Conduct
 - ✓ Catalyst MSA
 - ✓ Contract management plans
 - ✓ National Office – meeting rooms and more desks
 - ✓ SLG wānanga
 - ✓ Employee database
 - ✓ Multi-Factor Authentication
 - HSW Policy
 - Procurement Policy
 - Induction and Onboarding
 - Visitor Management
 - Snaphire for all recruitment
 - FY23/24 Budgets
- All staff wānanga
 - Business continuity plans
 - ES Operations manual
 - Cyber security dashboard
 - FMIS Phase 3
 - Policy reviews
 - Harassment & Workplace bullying prevention/ acceptable behaviour
 - Remuneration & reward
 - P-cards/business cards
 - Expenditure (inc Reserves)
 - Training in finance, procurement
 - Sustainability strategy



Future Work

To transform employee experience that supports and enables a proactive, innovative, efficient and connected Commission.

This report covers the main activities undertaken by the group/business unit for the period. It excludes the GE23 Programme or by-elections, which are reported on through separate channels.

Progress against the strategic priorities

Building our capability

The Enrolment and Strategic Engagement and Partnership teams have completed de-escalation training, and the Strategic Engagement and Partnerships team also completed training on the Te Kete Framework (formerly known as the Engagement monitoring and evaluation framework). Both trainings were organised and supported by the Business Enablement team.

PDPs for all Enrolment leaders and staff are being finalised, alongside the write-ups for the 1 April 2022 – 30 March 2023 performance year.

Organisational communications

Communications worked closely with People & Culture on the development and launch of an updated *Democracy Matters* induction programme and supported the delivery of the all staff wānanga. The team have developed communications to support property moves and new laptop rollouts.

The Operations Group has collaborated on the development of materials to be used for the general election and to ensure all BAU resources are up to date to reflect recent changes to legislation.

We continue to support ‘foundational’ work that will support the Commission to grow longer term, including onboarding/offboarding, consultation and implementation of policies including Health, Safety & Wellbeing, Data and Information Management and Procurement.

The inaugural edition of *The Electoral Connection*, a fortnightly all staff newsletter providing a range of updates from across the Commission, was published. This has allowed us to change the focus of Karl’s fortnightly update to be a ‘spotlight’ on our TAUMATA values, to further embed them in the organisation. We ‘launched’ the Māori Electoral Option internally and provided training to Community Engagement teams on the key messages and communications programme of work.

Preparing for an election

Māori Electoral Option

Systems changes to MIKE and EnrolOnline were successfully rolled out for the 31 March start date of the Māori Electoral Option legislation, following completion of testing in March. Further development work will be carried out in April/May on non-MVP scope items.

Production of the mailout packs was completed by NZ Post, and approximately 512,000 packs containing the ROE42 form and MEO brochure will be sent to Māori electors from 1 April. Testing of macrons by NZ Post using EC data was successfully completed prior to the data extract for the mailout and macrons have been included in names and addresses for the mailout for the first time. Changes to the ROE1 enrolment form and ROE9 confirmation letter have also been implemented, incorporating updates for MEO.

Training for all staff in Enrolment and Strategic Engagement & Partnership staff has been completed. Training activities covered refresher training for permanent enrolment staff, enrolment training for the new processing staff in the expanded Auckland enrolment centre, and engagement training for the additional community engagement staff and for the contracted community groups. Positive feedback was received from the training participants, along with some innovative ideas to further improve the training for the General Election. It has also enabled us to develop our internal capability to deliver specialised training.

Recruitment is ongoing for a further 16 roles, with gaps primarily in the Youth Advocate roles and Whangarei, Auckland and Wellington regions. Recruitment in Napier has been delayed due to the impact of Cyclone Gabrielle. Interviews for the contracted Māori community organisations were held in early March and three groups have been awarded contracts, covering five target areas: Tuakana Education Limited (Central Plateau/Rangitikei, Whanganui and the River/West Coast), Eastbay Reap Limited (Murupara/Kaingaroa, East Cape) and Kaupapa Māori Consultants Limited (Far North/Kaitiaki). Training for the contracted groups was held at Te Ao Hou Marae, Whanganui on 27 and 28 March. Further interviews are planned for two groups to cover South Island regions.

Temporary staff employed by PersolKelly agency started in Auckland (11 x enrolment processing staff) and Lower Hutt (1 x operations support) on 27 March. Training has been successfully completed and they will work alongside our enrolment processing teams during the MEO campaign.

Planning to mitigate the impact of cyclone Gabrielle on the campaign approach in affected areas is ongoing, with a working group in place reporting to ELT weekly. Temporary approval is in place to allow Electoral Commission enrolment staff to update an elector's postal address by email or phone during the campaign, for electors who are unable to receive their Māori Electoral Option mail pack in affected areas.

Business Enablement team also worked with Telnet to set up 0800 services for the campaign. This included setting up a new IVR flow (in English and te reo Māori), confirming required te reo Māori language capability, training requirements for Telnet Customer Services Representatives, updated answers to FAQs, and live reporting dashboard of call statistics. Some of these capabilities will be leveraged for future elections.

The Māori Electoral Option communications programme went live on 31 March. The first message runs until 15 April to raise awareness amongst Māori about the Option and that an information pack will arrive in the mail.

The Communications and Education and Māori Advisory teams worked together to finalise key messages and advertising scripts, to refine the translation process for information in Te Ātiawa, and to define a process for translating other dialects.

Organisational communications were prepared and delivered so all our people know about the Option and what it means. These communications included an information hub and articles on Echo and an all-staff hui to launch the Option.

A media briefing was held in Wellington on Thursday 30 March with the Chair of the Board, Chief Electoral Officer and Chief Māori Advisor and a media release was sent to national and local media. This activity generated much interest and stories about the Option. Media training was delivered to people involved in the media briefing and spokespeople who have been interviewed by media.

Still photography and video shoots were held on 17 March to capture footage and imagery to be used for the campaign. This required significant pre-production preparation and post-production and studio editing to format messages across different media channels.

The media schedule was finalised and approved by the Board and placements were booked across multiple channels for separate phases of campaign. Media partnerships were also approved and we're now working with media organisations to refine their proposals before beginning production on this content.

Content, translation, design, and architecture for a new section on the Commission's website about the Option was completed and the pages were published on 30 March.

Social media engagement increased across the Commission's social channels on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, and YouTube. Questions about the Option are being answered and public comments on posts continue to be moderated to maintain standards of public decency.

A benchmark survey was undertaken in March to measure awareness and understanding of the Option before the start of the campaign and will be repeated at the end of the campaign period.

Resources were prepared and delivered to the Commission's community engagement teams to support their attendance at events and meetings with stakeholders. These included a campaign kit and presentation tools.

A letter was sent to all members of Parliament providing an update on the Option and changes to overseas eligibility and the Commission's preparations. Information and resources about the Option are being prepared to help stakeholders spread the word in their local communities.

Filming of the voting place training

Voting Services carried out filming of the process of issuing votes in the voting place last week on Thursday and Friday. The films are used in both the face-to-face training and eLearning courses by approximately 20,000 election staff. We are especially grateful to Commission staff members who volunteered to give up time to be part of the filming and undergo the detailed script training the week before. Unreal Films our film contractor has been working with us producing these training films for nearly 20 years now and specialises in producing elections and democracy footage across the Australasia region.

Always On advertising

The first quarter media schedule for always on activity concluded at the end of March and a performance report is being prepared. A new media schedule for the second quarter is being finalised.

Preparing for the future

The Enrolment Team is currently trialling the new Roll Cleanse process and tools, which provides for a more robust process for identifying and fixing duplicate records in the enrolment system, an improved capability to identify and respond to trends or systemic issues arising from the roll cleanse process, and to provide more robust reporting on the numbers of duplicate records, the actions taken to remedy them and any potentially systemic issues. The process and tools were created as a result of discovery and development efforts with the Business Enablement team.

The handover of the management of the Māori Affiliation Service (MAS) process from Enterprise Services to Enrolment has been completed. Work is now underway to ensure the MAS process is properly documented and ongoing training is developed.

Changes to the Large Print Enrolment Application Form (large print ROE1, which is specifically designed for the sight impaired) to accommodate the changes relating to MEO and the overseas eligibility period have been completed. The new form is being printed and distributed through our partners in the blind and low vision community.

SEP kaimahi have participated in preparatory sessions on the engagement strategy and monitoring and evaluation framework (Te Kete).

As a whole team the staff had an introductory session on the overarching strategy including understanding the key components and hearing from OLT members about the value of the strategy and how it links into their work. This was followed up by regional values sessions where individual teams focused on how the principles of the strategy can be applied to their work. Staff were also introduced to Te Kete and will begin utilising the framework as part of their MEO planning and evaluation.

Business Enablement team worked with procurement to prepare the full procurement plan and ROI document for the 0800 Information Services. This procurement will be for FY24/25 to FY32/33 and due to the nature and size of contract, the plan will be presented to the April Board meeting seeking approval to engage with the market.

Building relationships and understanding

Community Engagement staff participated in 62 engagements through March, primarily in person events, hui and information sessions.

Media

A media conference was held in Wellington on 30 March to support the launch of the Māori Electoral Option public information programme. It was well attended and gave media the information they needed to write stories on the changes to the Option.

Karl Le Quesne and Hone Matthews provided comment in English and te reo Māori on what the changes mean, and how Māori can change roll types if they would like to.

There were news stories on TV3, Prime News, Radio NZ, Whakaata Māori (Māori Television), Te Karere, the Spinoff, Stuff and the Herald, and syndicated stories appeared in regional newspapers. Hone has done several interviews on iwi radio in Auckland, Whanganui and the East Coast.

A media release was also issued on the enrolment eligibility changes for New Zealanders living overseas who have not been able to return home in the last 3 years because of the pandemic.

There has been a lot of media coverage of Stuart Nash's sacking from Cabinet, and the calls that followed for him to leave Parliament, and for a by-election to be held in his Napier seat. The MP intends to stay in Parliament until the election when he will retire, avoiding the need for a by-election. The reporting shows good understanding in the media of the rules around when by-elections are held and how much they cost.

Other items of interest in March included election year stories on an increasing number of donations over \$20,000 to parties as they raise funds for their election campaigns, and candidate selections in electorates around the country.

Strategic communications

Stakeholder plans for Community Groups and Tangata Whenua have been progressed and will shortly be shared with leads for their review. Leads have provided feedback on the Academics and Experts and Political Parties and Candidates plans. The Public Sector and Media and Commentator engagement plans have been shared with leads to review.

Stakeholder relationships

Parliamentary Service - a meeting was held between the Operations Group and Parliamentary Services education, communications, visitor services and the Parliamentary Library to discuss opportunities to work together to share information.

Meta (Facebook and Instagram) - Communications and Legal and Policy met with Meta's Head of Public Policy and their Government Relationship Manager, for Australia, New Zealand and the Pacific to discuss their integrity measures for New Zealand's 2023 General Election and how Meta may support our election programme.

Election integrity

Work on our communications activity focused on integrity and building trust and confidence in elections is continuing. This work is aligned with activity led by the Deputy Chief Electoral Officer on integrity, security and trust and confidence in the election. The communications team has met with external agencies including Te Tari Taiwhenua Department of Internal Affairs and Te Tari O Te Piriāia Me Te Komiti Matua Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet on issues around election integrity, messaging and ways we will work together on misinformation around the election.

The Group is creating a series of videos to show voters what to expect when they get to a voting place and how to vote. A videographer has been engaged to create four short videos, and a location has been secured. Media will be invited to film their own footage that they can use in news articles about the election.

Election Access Fund communications

Production of advertising to raise awareness of the Election Access Fund amongst disabled people was completed. People who feature in our advertising about the Fund have lived experience of disability. Media placement includes radio, digital, and community newspapers throughout the country. Information about the campaign was shared with key stakeholders including political parties, the Minister, Steering Committee, Applications Panel and Commission Board ahead of the advertising going live. Stakeholder resources will be sent out via email and for key stakeholders, a physical pack in late April.

Websites

The Māori Electoral Option section of vote.nz went live on 30 March with content available in English, Te Reo Māori and New Zealand Sign Language. As the Option is now continuous, the vision is for this section to become a permanent part of the website, rather than just for this campaign – providing an ongoing one-stop shop about enrolment for people of Māori descent. The next stage for this section is to include an interactive timeline, outlining the history of the Māori vote.

Vote.nz was also updated to inform people about the changes to overseas eligibility – information about the eligibility extension was already present on the site, but these changes move this from being a future initiative to a current one.

Work is beginning on the development of a mapping tool to help people apply for voting field roles. Once complete, this will enable prospective applicants to search for their electorate by address then apply for roles in their area.

Social Media

The revised social media Best Practice Guidelines for Community Management is being finalised.

Our Social Media Terms of Use, which explain our expectations about public comments made to our posts or on our social media pages, are being reviewed in line with guidance from Te Kawa Mataaho Public Service Commission.

A contract has been signed with Sprout Social to provide a social media community management tool and training has been scheduled with our digital communications team.

Posts about the Māori Electoral Option and eligibility changes for overseas voters were published to Facebook, Instagram and Twitter. Monitoring and moderation of comments on these posts is ongoing.

The team worked with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade's communications team and New Zealand's overseas posts are sharing our social posts about eligibility changes overseas.

The number of people following our social media pages continues to grow. We currently have 46,603 Facebook followers, and 2,724 Instagram followers.

Other progress

Issues under management

- Planning to support people who do not receive their Māori Electoral Option pack in the mail because of Cyclone Gabrielle is progressing.
- Recruitment for community engagement staff to support the Māori Electoral Option continues to be a challenge. Options have been shared with the Programme Board for consideration.
- With more engagement staff likely to be travelling and a noted shortage of rental vehicle fleet availability we are currently exploring costing for lease cars. Paper to be shared with DCE.

Other news

- We continue to monitor community sentiment and needs in cyclone impacted regions. Large parts of the community are focused on recovery and will have limited capacity to engage with EC content. Access to some areas is opening through early April and we expect more insights will be gained from this. We continue to partner with agencies including local council, Stats NZ, MSD and TPK to share information and learn from each other's experiences.
- Recruitment for the Senior Enrolment Officer position in Christchurch is underway. The advertising closes in mid-April, with an appointment expected by the end of April. There is also enrolment recruitment under way in Auckland and Lower Hutt to fill vacancies created by recent resignations. In conjunction with this, three new staff started with the Lower Hutt enrolment and operations support team in March 2023.
- Recruitment for the 6-month fixed term Senior Advisor Learning and Development in Business Enablement team was unsuccessful in the first round. We are currently working with agencies to attract the suitable candidates.

This report covers the main activities undertaken by the group/business unit for the period. It excludes the GE23 Programme or by-elections, which are reported on through separate channels.

Progress against the strategic priorities

Building our capability

- New dashboards in Te Kauhanganaroa are supporting the Community Engagement Monitoring and Evaluation Framework, allowing the Commission to understand the impact of events.

Preparing for an election

- A six-month media promotion programme for EAF commenced in March. A potential additional application for the Election Access Fund (EAF) is being worked on with the applicant.
- A further revision of the Delegations Policy is being presented to the Board for approval at their April meeting. The changes in this revision are required to clarify some delegations ahead of the GE2023 operational phase.
- Electorate Managers have been trained and are using Te Kauhanganaroa to gain an understanding of their electorate and plan for GE 2023.
- New MEO dashboards allow the Commission to understand and report on roll type changes and new enrolments as a result of the MEO campaign.

Preparing for the future

- A high-level process for creating a Strategy Plan and 10-year Investment Plan has been designed. An SLG session is being set up to get feedback on the plan before proceeding further.

Building relationships and understanding

- SGD is working with Legal and Policy on the process for securing funding for the Representation Commission, which is supported by EC, StatsNZ and LINZ through a set of interagency MoU agreements.

Other progress

- We have been working on the draft 2023/24 Statement of Expectations (SPE) due end of April. Improved measures are being included to provide a more accurate picture of our performance.
- SGD and staff from a few other EC teams provided food for the Commission's National Office all-staff morning tea on 29 March, which revives a long-standing tradition curtailed by Covid-19. The morning tea will now be a monthly gathering, with various Commission teams taking turns to provide food.

Issues under management

- We have identified an immediate need is to identify senior relationship managers for StatsNZ and LINZ as a precursor to outdated MoUs and schedules being revised. More generally, SGD will look to facilitate a discussion at ELT about strategic relationship management, also working in with the Strategic Partnerships and Engagement and Communications and Education teams.

Other news

- We are making good progress on a potential appointment to the newly established Manager Planning, Risk & Assurance role. If the preferred candidate accepts the current offer, they may be commencing in the role around 8 May.
- The appointed Senior Advisor Data & Insights will start 17 April.
- Our international business unit sent their Programme Manager and Technical Advisor to Fiji this month for the Review Workshop of the 2022 General Election. This was over three days and went well; great feedback and recommendations were received which will assist them in their strategic planning for the next election. A vote of thanks was given to the Commission for our continued support and guidance to the Fijian Elections Office.



This report covers the main activities undertaken by the group/business unit for the period. It excludes the GE23 Programme or by-elections, which are reported on through separate channels.

Progress against the strategic priorities

Building our capability

- Tim attended training in Microsoft Project.

Preparing for an election

- Board papers were provided this month on the new Conservative logo, the Freedoms New Zealand Logo, and the next steps in the 2023 broadcasting allocation
- Continued to process the application for registration from the New Nation Party with the paper to be considered by the Board in April
- Work continued in supporting the Ministry of Justice in legislation to reduce the voting age.
- We provided advice and support on a variety of operational deliverables including advice on the Maori electoral option, overseas voting eligibility, special voting, overseas voting, and delegations.
- Registering third party promoter organisations.
- Following the broadcasting allocation notice period, all 15 registered parties and two unregistered parties applied for broadcasting allocation. Work continues as we prepare for oral hearings in April and preparations for the decision on the allocation.
-

Preparing for the future

- Continuing work with the Communications Team on the development of election candidate hub animated resources for the election, on being a candidate, loans, donations and advertising expenses. The final deliverables are due next month and we have been reviewing the video animations from National Park.
- Participating in the GE steering group, GE Programme Board, the working group on risk and security, stakeholder engagement plan (data stewardship group, and by-election working group did not meet this month).
- Working on a range of procurements including, the templates, travel policy, MEO, enrolment update, leases, 0800 tender
- Continuing to have input on legal and privacy matters re the ARTS project.
- Finalising the process manual for nominations process and preparing for the April test
- Seeking decisions on the collection of gender of candidates

Building relationships and understanding

- Continuing to support information requests and presentations to the Independent Panel reviewing electoral law.
- Making contact with social media platforms to discuss electoral integrity measures and escalations
- Processing Hamilton West By-election returns due 12 April
- Working with the digital safety team at DIA on election content
- Providing comments on the draft Parliament Bill

Other progress

- Working on section 112 requests for electoral roll data.

Advisory opinions

We received 35 advisory requests in March. All were responded to within the 5 working day timeframe. Requests from MPs are increasing as we approach the start of the regulated period.

Official Information Act requests responded to in March

We responded to two OIA requests in March. Both were within the 20 working day timeframe.

Requestor	Topic	Response Time
info@data.govt.nz	Political Donation Data: Data regarding each party's annual return (including publicly available donor information), and large donations.	4WD
9(2)(a)	All guidance/policies/documents/directives/memos/decision making criteria or similar created which relate to the Electoral Commission choosing whether or not to refer a breach of section 82 of the Electoral Act 1993 to the New Zealand Police for prosecution. How many times the Electoral Commission has referred a breach of s 82 to the New Zealand Police for prosecution, and what the outcome of those cases was. For the avoidance of doubt, the time period of this request is from 1993 to 2023.	10WD

Parliamentary questions responded to in March

We responded to 11 parliamentary questions in March.

Requestor	Question	Date of Response
Simon Court	What is the FTE equivalent, if any, within the departments, agencies, and entities for which the Minister is responsible, if any, of employees working in the fields of climate resilience or climate change mitigation, if any?	15/03/2023

Simeon Brown	How much, if anything, has the Minister's reporting departments, agencies or entities spent on external recruitment firms or external recruiters in the last three years (March 2020 - March 2023); broken down per month?	20/03/2023
Simeon Brown	As at 21 March 2023, for the last six years, how many Public Service staff or Board Members that the Public Service Commission's Code of Conduct applies to, has the Minister been made aware of, who have, or may have, breached the Code of Conduct?	22/03/2023
Simeon Brown	How many domestic flights in total, if any, counting each leg of a journey as an individual flight, has each department/entity that the Minister is responsible for paid for in the period 1 January 2022 to 23 March 2023; and what was the total cost, broken down by month?	28/03/2023
Simeon Brown	What percentage of vehicles owned and/or operated by each department/entity that the Minister is responsible, if any, are equipped with any device which may monitor and record the vehicles speed?	28/03/2023
Simeon Brown	How many international flights in total, if any, counting each leg of a journey as an individual flight, has each department/entity that the Minister is responsible for paid for in the period 1 January 2022 to 23 March 2023; and what was the total cost broken down by month, destination, cabin class and the purpose of the flight?	28/03/2023
Simeon Brown	How many, if any, Koru memberships have been purchased by each department/entity that the Minister is responsible for from 1 January 2021 to 23 March 2023; and, for what purpose	28/03/2023
Simeon Brown	How many, if any, vehicles owned and/or operated by each department/entity that the Minister is responsible for are designated to an individual person for their use?	28/03/2023
Simeon Brown	How many, if any, parking infringements (issued by any local authority or private business) have been issued to any vehicle owned and/or operated by each department/entity that the Minister is responsible for from 1 January 2022 to 23 March 2023; listed by location, infringement type, date, fine, and whether the fine was paid by the individual driving the vehicle or by the department/entity?	28/03/2023
Simeon Brown	How many, if any, vehicles have been purchased within each of the previous three financial years for each department/entity that the Minister is responsible for; listed by vehicle type, make, model, date purchased and cost?	28/03/2023
Simeon Brown	How many, if any, infringement notices issued by the New Zealand Police have been issued to any vehicle owned and/or operated by each department/entity that the Minister is responsible for from 1 January 2022 to 23 March 2023; listed by infringement type, date, fine, and whether the fine was paid by the individual driving the vehicle or by the department/entity?	28/03/2023

Issues under management

Nothing to report.

Other news

Nothing to report.