

Our Ref DOIA 25-008

29 July 2024

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Tēnā koe ██████████

Response to your official information request

Thank you for your official information request received on 4 July 2024 for:

“under s 23 of the Act (right of access by person to reasons for decisions affecting that person), kindly provide a written statement of:

- a. LINZ’s findings on material issues of fact; and
- b. a reference to the information on which those findings were based; and
- c. the reasons for LINZ’s decision.”

As you may be aware, Toitū Te Whenua Land Information New Zealand (LINZ) has updated its process for accessing restricted property ownership information on the LINZ Data Service (LDS). The updated process required LDS users who have access to the restricted dataset reapply for a licence to access the data.

The updated process aims to better protect the personal information LINZ holds and ensure those accessing this information are and will be using it appropriately and uphold the requirements of the Privacy Act 2020.

As part of this updated process, LINZ:

- revoked access to the data for LDS users who appeared to be not accessed the data for six months or more as at November 2023.
- required all remaining active users to reapply for continued access to the restricted dataset.

The criteria used to support assessment of the re-applications and new applications is summarised in Attachment 1.

LINZ staff held a number of internal in-person and/or online meetings to discuss and design this updated process and the criteria.

The process for assessing applications from existing users of LDS reapplying and new applications is that an employee at LINZ does an initial review of the application received and recommends an outcome. A second LINZ employee peer reviews the same application to ensure the outcome is agreed upon. Any applications that require further discussions is done through an in-person and/or online meeting to decide the outcome. As a result, correspondence does not exist when determining an application.

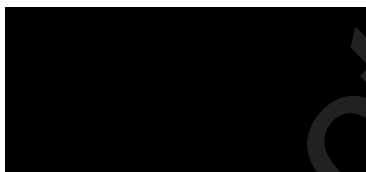
In assessing your application, one of the criteria our team considers is that there is a genuine need for the applicant to have access to bulk personal data of all property owners in New Zealand.

In your application, you described your reason to gain access to this personal information in bulk as personal curiosity and research. LINZ does not consider this to be a fair or reasonable use of the personal information as it goes against Principle 1 and Principle 10 of the Privacy Act.

Please refer to Attachment 2 for some examples of successful applications.

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.

Nāku noa, nā



Aaron Jordan
Head of Location Information