

Our Ref DOIA 24-317

21 June 2024

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Tēnā koe ██████████

Response to your official information request

Thank you for your official information request received on 27 May 2024 for all correspondence relating to the decision of your application for a data licence to access restricted bulk property ownership information and additional information and/or correspondence relating to the new application process.

As you are 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). This is 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.

The process for assessing applications is that an employee at LINZ does an initial review of the application received and decides on the 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. Therefore, this part of your request is refused under section 18(e) of the Official Information Act as the information requested does not exist.

All correspondence held by LINZ relates to communications that you would have received notifying you of the new process and the need to reapply for your license, or communications published on the LINZ website.

LINZ held a number of in-person and/or online meetings to discuss and design this updated process and confirm the criteria. The criteria used to determine the outcome of applications is summarised in the attached.

Please note that policy for making property ownership data accessible has not changed, just the process to access property ownership information in bulk.

As of 27 May 2024, approximately 650 applications have been approved under the new process.

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.

Please note, this response letter outlining our decision on your request, **with your personal details withheld**, and any attached documentation will be published on the Toitū Te Whenua Land Information New Zealand website. This is likely to be published by 31 July 2024

Nāku noa, nā



Aaron Jordan
Head of Location Information

Proactive Release