

Our Ref DOIA 24-181

8 February 2024

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Tēnā koe ██████████

Response to your official information request

Thank you for your official information request received on 18 January 2024 for “whether title and/or title holder searches can be run by members of the public for any purpose, and if not, what restrictions apply?” and, “Whether LINZ retains records of searches run on residential property titles and / or on the names of potential title holders, and if so, whether I can obtain a record of searches relating to any property currently owned by me and/or searches of my name.”

Are there any restrictions on the purpose for obtaining land information?

Toitū Te Whenua Land Information New Zealand (LINZ) does not restrict the purposes for which land information can be sought. Either through Landonline or via the publicly available Land Record Search (LRS). However, anyone who accesses land information need to ensure they are not using it in a way which breaches the Privacy Act 2020.

Access to the land register through either Landonline or LRS is governed by s40 of the Land Transfer Act 2017 which requires LINZ to provide copies of land information documents (e.g.; Title) to any person on request. Section 40(3) allows LINZ to provide such information in electronic form which we do via Landonline.

Section 40 does not give LINZ the ability to restrict access depending on the purpose for which the information is being obtained, but we do refuse access where the specific information has been withheld for safety reasons under s41.

Landonline is only available to registered Landonline users and its use is governed by the Terms and Conditions set out on the LINZ Website.

Does LINZ retain record of searches for land information owned by me?

The table below shows all instances where the title for ██████████
██████████ was purchased within the period July 1, 2023, to 25 January 2024.

Title Reference	Organisation	Date Purchased
██████	Rhonda G Evans (Auckland)	04/08/2023
	Lekinwala Search Limited	28/08/2023
	Rhonda G Evans (Auckland)	28/09/2023
	Rhonda G Evans (Auckland)	28/09/2023

All of these searches were made in the Landonline search platform. The names of the individuals have been withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the Official Information Act to protect the privacy of natural persons.

We are of the view the withholding of the information is not outweighed by the public interest to make that information available.

There were no searches made through LRS platform.

Does LINZ retain record of searches of my name?

LINZ does not record or retain information on the specific search terms used (i.e.; title reference, legal description, owner name).

While registered Landonline users are able to search by owner name within Landonline, it is not possible to search by owner name in LRS

To obtain documents through LRS, the person searching must know either the address, title reference, or legal description for the property

Could someone run a search of my name in Landonline and get my address?

Not solely through Landonline.

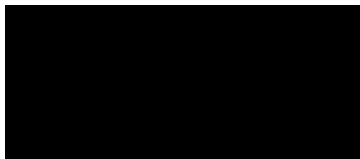
It is possible for a registered Landonline user to search an owner name in Landonline and obtain a title reference number. Then, using LRS, search that title reference and the map finder will geolocate the property associated to that title. This kind of search method does not generate any purchase therefore may not appear in table of searches above.

If you wish to discuss this decision with us, please feel free to contact Andrew Blake at ablake@linz.govt.nz

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 29 March 2024.

Nāku noa, nā



✓ Scott Warman

Group Manager Titles

Proactive release