

Our Ref DOIA 24-336

3 July 2024

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Tēnā koe [REDACTED]

Response to your official information request

Thank you for your official information request received on 6 June 2024 for various information relating to the decision of your application for a data licence to access restricted bulk property ownership information and information around communications from LINZ.

As you are aware, Toitū Te Whenua Land Information New Zealand (LINZ) has updated its process for accessing restricted property ownership information in bulk via 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.

Please see LINZ's responses to your request below:

1. *Any internal guidance, decision making, correspondence, briefings or other documents that explain what examples, guarantees or processes (etc) would constitute "satisfactory evidence" regarding the terms of the outcome email.*
 2. *The rationale and justification behind the comment "no further correspondence will be entered into".*
- 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. The criteria used to determine the outcome of applications is summarised in Appendix 1.
 - The application review process is a manual one. LINZ assesses each application on its own merit. Applicants are able to provide additional information to support their case in a new application, however LINZ does not have the capacity to engage directly with individual applicants.

3. *Evidence of any consideration (including any communication) behind the decision to decline my application.*

- Please refer to the criteria for decisions attached as Appendix 1. As noted in our response to Question 1, any discussions regarding individual applications are not documented.

4. *The total number of submitted applications made to LINZ; broken down by the number that have been declined and approved as of today's date.*

- Through this reapplication, as of 10 June 2024, a total of 1,031 applications have been received. 629 of the received applications have been approved and 401 declined under the new process.

5. *The substantive text of at least 10 individual applications (randomly selected is fine) where the applicant was successful in their application.*

- We cannot provide this information without breaching the privacy of the individuals who have made the applications. Therefore, I must refuse this request under section 9(2)(a) of the Official Information Act (the Act).

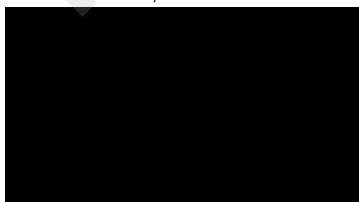
However, in line with section 16(1)(e) of the Act, we can provide a summary of some successful applications. Uses of the data include but not limited to:

- determine ownership to meet regulatory requirements
- resource consents
- food/game tracing
- permission for site access (such as by utility companies or primary industries)
- anonymised data analytics (such as by financial institutions, property industry, universities)
- where the bulk data feeds directly into their business systems.

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 30 August 2024

Nāku noa, nā



Aaron Jordan
Head of Location Information