



20 April 2022

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Wendy McGuinness
Chief Executive
McGuinness Institute Te Hononga Waka
[REDACTED]

Dear Wendy,

Your Official Information Act 1982 request, reference OIA 21/22-672

Thank you for your email of 4 April 2022 requesting the following under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

Given the Inquiries Act 2013 did include a reference to a review of the 1908 Act (see below);

- 1. Who completed the review and when?*
- 2. What did they find?*
- 3. What did they recommend?*
- 4. How did government respond? (I note the 1908 Act still exists)"*

The Review of continuing application of Commissions of Inquiry Act 1908 commenced in 2018, and still in progress. This means that we do not hold the information that you have specifically requested, and so must refuse your request under section 18(e) of the Act, on the grounds that the document you have requested does not exist.

However, although we are unable to fulfil the exact request as it is phrased, we are happy to provide you with information on the review that has commenced but is not yet complete.

In 2018, we undertook preliminary scoping work towards a review. At the time, Hon Tracey Martin, the then Minister of Internal Affairs, preferred that the work be undertaken by the Department of Internal Affairs, rather than devolving responsibility to the government agency responsible for each entity. As the work was not considered a priority for the Government at the time, and recognising the pressure already placed on existing resources, the Minister deferred further work on the review during 2019.

We have since undertaken some work on the review since 2020, as resource availability has allowed. The next phase of work will focus on establishing the options for the entities listed in Schedule 1 of the Inquiries Act 2013 which still require specific inquiry powers.

We anticipated by 2024/25, the review will have produced options for the repeal of the 1908 Act for Ministers to consider. The timing is dependent on availability of resources and the Government's legislative priorities.

We intend to publish our response to your request on www.dia.govt.nz. This letter, with your personal details removed, will be published in its entirety. Publishing responses increases the availability of information to the public and is consistent with the Act's purpose of enabling more effective participation in the making and administration of laws and policies and promoting the accountability of Ministers and officials.

Nāku noa nā

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

Tumuaki | Director Ministerial, Monitoring, and Capability Group