

Subject: OIA 2025/25 - Request for information on the types of inquiries commissioned since the enactment of the Inquiries Act 2013
Date: Thursday, 18 December 2025 at 1:52:18 AM New Zealand Daylight Time
From: McGuinness Institute OIAs
To: OIA
CC: Molly Woods, Greta Balfour, Josie McGuinness
Attachments: 20251217 Scottish Parliament McGuinness NZ Final Draft.pdf

Kia ora,

OIA 2025/25- Request for information on the types of inquiries commissioned since the enactment of the Inquiries Act 2013

Background

I was recently invited to speak to members of the Finance and Public Administration Committee about the cost-effectiveness of public inquiries (my draft notes are attached). The Scottish Parliament is looking to improve the efficiency of its own inquiry processes and was keen to learn more about how inquiries operate in New Zealand. We intend to publish these notes on our website and provide a copy to the committee; however, there are a few points we would like to clarify first to ensure we present a comprehensive picture of New Zealand's inquiries system.

Questions

1. Since the passing of the *Inquiries Act* in 2013, how many of each type of inquiry has been commissioned to 31 December 2025? Please create a table or direct us to a link. The Institute did find a list of current and previous inquiries [here](#). Based on this link, we understand the numbers to date are as follows:
 - Royal Commissions (possibly 3)
 - Public inquiries (possibly 1)
 - Government inquiries (possibly 10)
2. Can you provide the number of non-statutory inquiries established since the passing of the Inquiries Act 2013?
3. Can you confirm whether our Table 1, outlining the tentative costs of recent Royal Commissions (p. 3 of the attachment), is accurate? If a more detailed or up-to-date table/record exists, could you please provide a link or attachment.
4. Why was the Inquiry into the Earthquake Commission (2020) established

4. Why was the inquiry into the Earthquake Commission (2020) established as a public inquiry rather than a Royal Commission?
5. What is the rationale for having three types of statutory inquiry, particularly given that the practical differences between Public Inquiries and Royal Commissions appear minimal? Please explain.
6. Can you advise whether any work is being undertaken to provide the public with a more detailed, standardised, comparable and comprehensive report on the costs, benefits, and risks associated of each inquiry?
7. Could you advise whether any work is underway to provide the public with more detailed information on the extent to which commissioners' recommendations have been (i) considered and (ii) implemented, including by whom and when?
8. Is there any plans to review the cost-effectiveness of New Zealand's inquiries (e.g. similar to the Scottish Parliament's investigation)? Please explain.
9. Please feel free to comment on the attached draft notes, and share any feedback or observations you may have.

If you have any questions or require any further clarification, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Thank you in advance for your assistance. We wish you a relaxing summer break.

Ngā mihi,

Wendy

Wendy McGuinness
Chief Executive

McGuinness Institute Te Hononga Waka

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