


Subject: Acknowledgement of OIA request - our reference OIA2526-0694
Date: Tuesday, 27 January 2026 at 4:46:05 PM New Zealand Daylight Time
From: MaSS info
To: McGuinness Institute OIAs
CC: 
Attachments: image002.png

Dear Wendy / McGuinness Institute

Thank you for your request made under the Official Information Act to the Department of Internal Affairs (DIA) dated 18 December 2025.

In which you requested the following:

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 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.*

DIA will provide its response to your request as soon as practicable and within twenty working days. The due date for your request is by **9 February 2026**.

We are aware that an employee of DIA has contacted you expressing their interest of discussing

your OIA request. If your preference is to receive a response via the OIA process, please let us know at the earliest.

Regards,

Branch Performance Team

Partnerships and Commissions Branch

Department of Internal Affairs | Te Tari Taiwhenua

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