

Date: [Insert date]

An Open Letter from Concerned People of Aotearoa New Zealand

To:

Her Excellency The Rt Hon Dame Cindy Kiro, Governor-General of New Zealand
Grant Taylor, Controller and Auditor-General
The Rt Hon Dame Helen Winkelmann GNZM, Chief Justice of New Zealand
Karen Chang, Director and Chief Executive, Serious Fraud Office
Sir Brian Roche KNZM, Public Service Commissioner and Head of Service

Subject: Formal request for constitutional, public integrity, and governance accountability review

We, the undersigned people of Aotearoa New Zealand, write to express our serious concern about the declining level of public trust in New Zealand's system of government, public administration, financial accountability, and democratic representation.

Over many years, and across successive governments, many New Zealanders have become increasingly concerned that the current governance system is no longer providing sufficient transparency, accountability, public participation, or protection of the long-term public interest.

This letter is not directed at one political party alone. Our concern is systemic. We believe the current structure of political decision-making has allowed too much power to become concentrated within party leadership, Cabinet processes, ministerial offices, and central government agencies, while the public is left with limited visibility over how major decisions are made, recorded, justified, reviewed, and corrected.

We therefore call on the relevant constitutional, judicial, audit, public service, and serious fraud authorities to take all lawful steps available to them to protect the integrity of New Zealand's democratic system.

In particular, we request:

1. **A formal independent review of New Zealand's governance system**, including the concentration of power within political parties, Cabinet, ministerial offices, and Parliament.
2. **An independent review of public accountability mechanisms**, including whether the current powers of audit, investigation, transparency, and enforcement bodies are sufficient to hold Ministers, chief executives, agencies, and public entities properly accountable.
3. **A full public accounting of emergency expenditure and decision-making during the COVID period**, including procurement, contracts, grants, public communications, human rights implications, and the recording of key decisions.
4. **A strengthened anti-corruption and public integrity investigation framework**, including clear pathways for investigating serious allegations of fraud, corruption, conflicts of interest, improper influence, unexplained enrichment, or misuse of public office where credible evidence exists.
5. **A review of transparency practices across government**, including ministerial diaries, informal meetings, unminuted discussions, Cabinet-related processes, use of private

communications, withholding of information, and compliance with public service obligations.

6. **A public report within 90 days** setting out what action each relevant office can lawfully take, what matters require legislative change, and what independent review or inquiry mechanisms are available to restore public trust.

We also request that consideration be given to a broader constitutional conversation with the people of New Zealand about whether the present political party system, Cabinet structure, parliamentary model, and centralised public service model remain fit for purpose.

Many New Zealanders now seek a more transparent, participatory, accountable, and people-centred model of governance. We believe the public has the right to discuss peaceful, lawful, democratic alternatives, including transitional governance options, stronger regional representation, independent public accountability mechanisms, and a written constitutional framework that places the people's sovereignty and long-term national wellbeing at the centre of public decision-making.

We ask that this letter be treated as a serious public request for lawful constitutional review, public integrity review, and democratic renewal.

We seek not disorder, but accountability.

We seek not division, but transparency.

We seek not retaliation, but restoration of public trust.

Signed,

The undersigned people of Aotearoa New Zealand