

Public Statement Following Responses from Constitutional and Integrity Offices

We wrote to New Zealand's constitutional, judicial, audit, public service, and serious fraud authorities because many New Zealanders have serious concerns about the condition of our governance system.

The responses have confirmed an important point.

Each office has a defined role. Each office has limited powers. Each office can act only within its own legal mandate.

That means no single independent office appears to hold responsibility for asking the larger question:

Is New Zealand's governance system itself still fit for purpose?

This is the system gap.

If public trust declines, if decision-making becomes too centralised, if accountability mechanisms are too weak, if major decisions are made without proper transparency, and if the public no longer believes the system is serving the long-term interests of the country, there appears to be no clear constitutional pathway for the people to require a whole-of-system review.

That is why we are now calling for an independent Constitutional and Public Integrity Review.

This review should examine Parliament, Cabinet government, political parties, ministerial power, public service accountability, emergency decision-making, public finance, audit powers, anti-corruption safeguards, and the rights of the people.

This is not a call for disorder.

It is a call for lawful, democratic, peaceful, and transparent review.

The people of New Zealand have the right to ask whether the system that governs them remains fit for purpose.

We now ask Parliament to establish an independent review process and invite the people of New Zealand to participate in a national conversation about the future of governance in Aotearoa New Zealand.