

MAKE AN ELECTION PROGRAMME COMPLAINT

Tukuna He Kōamuamu Hōtaka Pōtitanga

BEFORE YOU START

- You can complain directly to the BSA about an election programme that you consider breaches the Election Programmes Code. For information on the Election Programmes Code see our website: <https://www.bsa.govt.nz/broadcasting-standards/election-code/>
- We deal with complaints about election programmes, which are programmes which are broadcast on television or radio by or for a political party or candidate during the election period (for a general election or by-election) and usually appear as short promotional/campaign clips for the relevant political party or candidate. The election period is the month before the election polling day.
- Complaints about other programmes that relate to an election (eg news and current affairs coverage, satire or comment) should be made under the Code of Broadcasting Standards in New Zealand and must first go to the broadcaster (within 20 working days of the broadcast). If you have already made a complaint to the broadcaster about such a programme and you are not satisfied with the broadcaster's decision and wish to refer it to us, please use the complaint form titled [Refer a complaint to the BSA](#).
- Other agencies such as the Advertising Standards Authority (ASA), Electoral Commission and NZ Media Council also deal with election-related complaints. To find out where to send your concerns or a complaint about election material, see our [Who does what?](#) election guide. If we are not able to deal with your complaint, we may forward it to the agency that may be able to assist you.

Some deadlines apply:

- You have 60 working days from the date of broadcast of an election programme to complain directly to the BSA about a breach of the Election Programmes Code.

You can make your election programme complaint to us using this form by emailing it to us at complaints@bsa.govt.nz

If you choose to post your complaint to us (**PO Box 9213, Wellington 6141**) it **must reach us within 60 working days from the date of broadcast**.

If you need further assistance you can phone us on **0800 366 996**.

BSA fast-track process for election complaints:

- From the period 4 October - 6 November 2026 we aim to fast track consideration of election related complaints. See the fast track process [here](#).

PERSONAL DETAILS

We require your details to process your complaint effectively. For more information see our [privacy policy](#) on our website.

Your Name:

Email Address:

Phone:

Address:

Preferred form of contact: ☐ Post ☐ Email

PROGRAMME DETAILS

Programme title:

Broadcast date:

Broadcast time:

Type of Broadcast: ☐ Radio ☐ Television

Channel/Station:

COMPLAINT DETAILS

Complaint date:

The Election Programmes Code standard(s) which I believe have been breached are:

☐ **Standard E1 - Election Programmes Subject to Other Code:** *(Please select all that apply)*

- | | |
|---|---|
| ☐ Offensive and disturbing content | ☐ Promotion of Illegal or Antisocial Behaviour |
| ☐ Children's Interests | ☐ Accuracy |
| ☐ Discrimination and Denigration | ☐ Privacy |
| | ☐ Fairness |

☐ **Standard E2: Election Programme Advocacy - Distinguishing Factual Information from Opinion or Advocacy**

☐ **Standard E3: Denigration**

☐ **Standard E4: Misleading Programmes**

Please provide details of why you think the programme breached each of the standards you have selected:

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS/EVIDENCE

If you would like to attach further information or evidence in support of your complaint, please attach it to your complaint, or email it to us at complaints@bsa.govt.nz (make sure files are clearly labelled and dated).