

26 November 2019

Justice Select Committee parliament buildings Wellington

Dear committee members

We write to seek the opportunity present to the Justice Select Committee as part of your election enquiry over the recent serious revelations over the failure to disclose major donations, the significant expenditure on unauthorised campaign activities and the in appropriate running of a separate foundation without the proper oversight of elected party officials. We believe our insights will be invaluable to your work in strengthening the law and practice so as to ensure future elections are conducted fairly and properly.

We acknowledge the Select Committee Inquiry is well advanced, but we only became aware of the seriousness of these issues in recent weeks. A major issue for us is how it is possible for major goings on to occur in a party's name without elected party officials knowing. We appreciate that it is not for the committee to investigate any wrong doings we want to shed some light on the inappropriate internal workings of the party that seemingly aren't monitored or controlled by electoral law. Our major concern is that the party affairs have effectively been taken over by the caucus to spite public comments saying the opposite.

The committee needs to be aware that we face substantial legal and personal threats should we make public statements on these issues. The enquiry is a safe place for us to disclose our knowledge of what has taken place. We are, like most party officials' volunteers whom have simply wished to have actively participated in New Zealand's democracy. We are happy to make our submission to a closed committee without New Zealand First officials present and will make ourselves available at the earliest opportunity.

We look forward to your positive response.

We know our submission will be important to your enquiry's conclusion.

Kind regards

Lester Gray, former New Zealand First National President  
Colin Forster, former New Zealand First National treasurer