

15 December 2022

By email to: [REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT REQUEST 2022/39

On 19/11/22 you made a request under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) for the following information:

results from the Cannabis Control Referenda for each electoral seat and for this information to be displayed on your website

Additionally, on 22/11/22 you requested the following information:

include those who did not vote in the Cannabis Control part of Referenda in each electoral seat but took part in the General Election.

As provided for in the Referendums Framework Act 2019, the referendums were conducted using a single voting paper rather than separate voting papers for each electorate. Referendum voting papers for all electorates went into the same ballot box at each voting place which means we are unable to provide a separate count of ordinary votes for individual electorates. However, we do have a breakdown of ordinary referendum votes by the electorate in which the votes were taken and a breakdown of special votes by electorate.

We publish results from events on our website electionresults.govt.nz which can be navigated to from elections.nz. The results from the 2020 referendums can be found at https://electionresults.govt.nz/electionresults_2020/referendums-results.html. Attached to this response is the 2020 Referendum Results table which can also be found on our website at https://electionresults.govt.nz/electionresults_2020/referendums-statistics/ElectorateReferendumResults.xlsx.

In the spreadsheet you will see an 'informal' column. An informal referendum vote is where a voting paper cannot be counted because it is blank or does not clearly indicate for which option the voter desired to vote. 0.9% of votes were informal in the Cannabis Legalisation and Control Bill Referendum. 0.73% of party votes and 1.98% of candidate votes were informal. The referendum ballot paper was issued to every person that was issued a parliamentary ballot paper.

Because the referendum and parliamentary ballot papers were counted separately and by secret ballot, we do not hold information on the number of informal voters in the referendum that also cast an informal candidate and or party vote.

In the interests of transparency, we release responses to Official Information Act requests every three months. We will publish this response with your personal details redacted.

You have the right under section 28(3) of the Act to make a complaint to the Ombudsman if you are not satisfied with the response to your request. Information about how to do this is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or by phoning 0800 802 602.

Yours sincerely



Kristina Temel
Manager Legal and Policy