

14/11/2023

By email to: [REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT REQUEST 2023/77

On Thursday, 19 October 2023, you made a request under the Official Information Act 1982 (the OIA) for the following information:

Dear Sir

This request, under the NZ Official Information Act of 1982, is directed at the NZ Electoral Commission.

I request the election night totals, at the completion of counting, as phoned in to Catalyst IT, (being a contractor on behalf of the New Zealand Government), for each electoral party broken down by polling booth location for the whole of New Zealand.

An XLS spreadsheet would be an ideal delivery vehicle with rows containing labels of polling booth locations and Columns containing labels of all political parties. The election night totals would form the body of the spreadsheet.

I understand this information is available at the Electoral Commission for a period of 26 days after the election during the recount and special vote accumulation period before the data is sealed for the statutory storage period.

I am a New Zealand citizen (passport number [REDACTED]) and request this information as a living person residing in New Zealand.

Attached to this letter is a Microsoft Excel Spreadsheet, which alphabetically lists polling places by electorate, and the number of votes each party received at each polling place, in columns. Totals can be located at the bottom of each party's column.

We would like to clarify that election night totals are not phoned in to Catalyst IT as you suggest.

During the preliminary count, all ordinary votes cast are counted and the preliminary results are released on election night. Preliminary results are entered into the Election Management System (EMS) by electoral officials at electorate headquarters after 7PM on election day. During the official

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count, all ordinary votes cast are counted a second time and special votes are checked and counted. Once the count is complete for each voting place during the official count, the totals are recorded on a certificate of results which is signed by the Returning Officer for that electorate and a Justice of the Peace to declare that results are accurate. These results are then entered manually into the Election Management System – this process happens progressively over the official count period.

EMS is the main software used to assist the administration of the election. It generates the election results website at www.electionresults.govt.nz. The Electoral Commission designed and tested and managed its development, but EMS was developed by Catalyst IT after a public procurement process in 2014. The system is owned by the Commission. Catalyst do not have end-user access to EMS. Catalyst provides system administration services to the Electoral Commission and their access is limited to that function.

In the interests of transparency, we release responses to Official Information Act requests every 3 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



Beth Kreitzer
Principal Advisor Data and Insights