

18 May 2023

By email to: [REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

### **OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT REQUEST 2023/13**

On 1 May 2023 you made a request under the Official Information Act 1982 (the OIA) for the following information:

*Regarding the master roll, RNZ requests release in full and in fully searchable format:*

- *Details of all and any rules that relate to the master roll, including over accessing it, using it and disseminating it*
- *Copies of records or similar of any entity or individual that has ACCESSED the master roll at any time since access became possible*
  - *Including identification of that entity or individual*
  - *Including the date/s of any and all access*

*If any of the above has previously been publicly released, pls provide links to that forthwith. If any of the above has previously been released under the OIA, pls release it now to RNZ as per the OIA regs and SOP.*

*Pls redact names of junior staff but include those of senior ones*

*Pls get back to me with any queries within 7 working days; pls advise of any need to transfer any of these questions anywhere, within 7 working days.*

Following an election, scrutiny of the rolls is undertaken to create a complete record of people who voted and to identify dual votes. The end result is a master roll for each electorate (including the main roll and the supplementary rolls) and a list of people who voted whose names were not on the roll. A mark beside the person's name on the roll indicates they have voted. The absence of a mark indicates that an enrolled elector has not voted.

Once the master roll has been completed and the official results have been declared, the master roll and list for each electorate is held at the Office of the Electoral Commission for the electorate under section 187(3) of the Electoral Act 1993 (the Act). The Act stipulates that the master roll is to be available for inspection by a registered elector of that electorate without charge and is only to be kept until the next election. After the election, a person can inspect the master roll at an Electoral Commission office and can take notes but is not permitted to copy or scan it (section 187(5) of the Act).

Under the legislation, no person is authorised to receive master roll information during the poll or to receive master roll information electronically.

The rules for the creation of the master roll are set out in [section 176\(1\) of the Act](#). The rules for public inspection of the master roll are set out in [section 187\(3\) to \(5\) of the Act](#).

With respect to the second part of your request, the Act does not require the Commission to record any details relating to the person accessing the rolls, or the date and time of the access. However, we can say that the Master Rolls are commonly accessed by university researchers, and political parties.

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. Copies of previously released responses are available [here](#), but none relate to the master roll.

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](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz) or by phoning 0800 802 602.

Yours sincerely



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Ross McPherson  
Director, Enrolment