

07/09/23

By email to: [REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

### OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT REQUEST 2023/35

On Thursday 10 August 2023 you made a request under the Official Information Act 1982 (the OIA) for the following information:

*I'm making an official information request for the name of the company that designs the software for the new zealand elections. Also what exact role does this software play in the voting process and what is the process they use to test the software's security.*

Votes are counted manually, and the results are then written down on paper tallying forms. The results are then entered by electoral officials into our own in-house Election Management System (EMS), which is the main software used to assist the administration of the election. It generates the election results website at [www.electionresults.govt.nz](http://www.electionresults.govt.nz).

EMS supports the various business processes including election planning, management of properties, management of staffing, project task control and expenditure and inventory management.

The electoral roll is maintained using the **Electoral Roll Management System** dubbed "Mike". Each Registrar of Electors is charged with the duty of compiling and maintaining the electoral roll for their electorate. The Electoral Roll Management System is used by Electoral Commission personnel to support this process.

The **Electronic Roll Scrutiny Application (ERSA)** supports the scrutiny process as required by the Electoral Act 1993 ss.175-176 and Electoral Regulations 1996, parts 2-4.

New Zealand Company CATALYST.NET LIMITED, NZ Company Number 952897 develop the software for EMS, Mike, Election Results and ERSA.

For voters based overseas they can upload their scanned voting paper to the 'Upload Voting Papers' system (UVP).

New Zealand Company PIKSELIN LIMITED, NZ Company Number 3345972 develop the software for UVP.

We undertake thorough functional and non-functional testing of our systems. Functionality is tested and approved before any system changes occur. We adhere to best practice and industry standards to protect our systems. Testing is performed by Electoral Commission personnel in conjunction with the following New Zealand based Companies, Qual IT Solutions Limited, Planit Software Testing Limited, Lateral Security (IT) Services Limited and Aura Information Security is an independent division of Kordia Limited.

Our systems undergo certification and accreditation in line with NZ government guidance, this includes penetration testing of systems to ensure that data cannot be tampered with or manipulated.

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

Yours sincerely



James Willcocks  
Chief Information Officer  
Electoral Commission