

29/08/23

By email to: [REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT REQUEST 2023/41

On Friday 25 August 2023 you made a request under the Official Information Act 1982 (the OIA) for the following information:

Recently there was a notification to voters of Māori descent, giving them the option of being on either the Māori Roll or the General Roll at the coming election.

The following information is requested:

- *How many notifications were sent out?*
- *How many were returned as undeliverable?*
- *Was any further attempt made to contact those returned as undelivered?*
- *Of those returned requesting a change, how many transfers were requested from the Māori Roll to the General Roll, and how many from the General Roll to the Māori Roll?*
- *Following this exercise, what percentage of voters of Māori descent are on the Māori Roll, and what percentage are on the General Roll?*

The Electoral Commission's response follows.

How many notifications were sent out?

On 31 March 2023 the Commission sent out 512,726 Māori Electoral Option packs to all enrolled electors of Māori descent.

The pack included an informational brochure and a form advising the elector which roll they were currently on. If they were happy with the roll they were on, they did not need to do anything. If they wanted to change rolls, they could sign and date the form and send it back, either via post, email, or upload a scanned copy of the form at vote.nz. The form also informed electors how to change rolls online at vote.nz if they preferred.

How many were returned as undeliverable?

12,345 packs were returned to the Commission because the address was no longer current for the elector the pack was addressed to (Gone No Address).

Was any further attempt made to contact those returned as undelivered?

Attempts are made to contact electors for whom a Māori Electoral Option pack was returned to the Commission.

If the elector's enrolment record included a mobile phone number or an email address, the elector was sent a text or an email advising them that their enrolment record was out of date and encouraging them to update it.

If the electors record included both a mobile number and an email address, they were sent both a text and an email.

Where the electors record included neither a mobile number nor an email address, the elector's enrolment record was checked to determine if there was an alternative residential address, different to the postal address. Where there was, the pack was redirected to that alternative address.

Of those returned requesting a change, how many transfers were requested from the Māori Roll to the General Roll, and how many from the General Roll to the Māori Roll?

During the MEO from 31 March to 13 July 2023:

- 14,587 people changed rolls,
- 6,478 changed from the Māori Roll to the General Roll,
- 8,109 changed from the General Roll to the Māori Roll,
- there were 3,241 new enrolments,
- 22,136 Māori electors updated their enrolment details but didn't change rolls.

Statistics from the 2023 Māori Electoral Option are available on our website, www.vote.nz

Following this exercise, what percentage of voters of Māori descent are on the Māori Roll, and what percentage are on the General Roll?

At the end of the Māori Electoral Option on 13 July 2023, 51.35% of Māori voters (259,871) were on the Māori roll and 48.65% (246,206) were on the general roll.

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.

The information you have requested has been provided in full. However, 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



Ross McPherson
Director, Enrolment