

13/07/22

By email to: [REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

### **OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT REQUEST 2022/21**

On 5 July 2022 you made a request under the Official Information Act 1982 (the OIA) for the following information:

*I would like to know the process for removing myself from the electoral role.*

You followed up on our acknowledgement on 5 July 2022, you sent the following clarification:

*Actually its: removing my name from the electoral role*

The rules for enrolling and voting at parliamentary elections are provided for in the Electoral Act 1993 (the Act) enacted by Parliament.

New Zealand citizens and permanent residents are eligible to enrol provided they are over 18 and have lived continuously in New Zealand for a period of one year or more at some point (section 74 of the Act).

Section 82 of the Act makes it compulsory for eligible persons to be enrolled.

There are very limited circumstances where a registered elector can be disqualified from registering as an elector and removed from the roll, for example:

- New Zealand citizens who have not been in New Zealand within the last three years
- Permanent residents of New Zealand who have not been in New Zealand within the last 12 months
- Persons sentenced to a term of imprisonment of three years or more.

In your email it is not clear that you meet any of the above circumstances. At this point the Electoral Commission cannot remove you from the electoral roll for the reasons you have given.

While it is compulsory to enrol in New Zealand it is not compulsory to vote at electoral events.

However, if you are concerned about your safety and privacy, there are provisions for electors to be included on the Unpublished roll. The Unpublished roll is confidential, we keep enrolment details secure and don't give them to anyone. You can find more information about applying for the Unpublished roll on our website [vote.nz](https://www.vote.nz).

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



Ross McPherson  
Manager Enrolment & Community Engagement Operations