

07 December 2023

By email to: [REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT REQUEST 2023/103

On Thursday 9 November 2023 you made a request under the Official Information Act 1982 (the OIA) for the following information:

1. *The number of downloaded overseas voting papers and the number of overseas voting papers uploaded in 2023. An update to the following information you provided in 2020:*

General Election	2005	2008	2011	2014	2017	2020
Downloads from Download system	20,931	31,477	21,889	34,055	49,379	72,136
Uploads from Overseas Upload System				22,333	40,050	59,879

2. *The breakdown of downloads of voting papers by country in 2023. An update to the following 2020 breakdown:*

We don't have figures available showing the country breakdown of overseas voters, however we do have an approximate breakdown of overseas vote downloads by country (which was how the vast majority of overseas voted received their voting paper at the 2020GE). These percentages should be a fairly good proxy of overseas voting by country. The top 5 countries were:

- Australia (53% of downloads)
- United Kingdom (18% of downloads)
- USA (6% of downloads)
- Canada (3% of downloads)
- Germany (2% of downloads)

3. *The number of electors with an overseas postal address, the number of people who voted from overseas, and the approximate % of people who voted from overseas that had an overseas postal address. Per the information you provided in 2020:*

General Election	2005	2008	2011	2014	2017	2020
Number of electors with an overseas postal address	43,541	59,667	52,183	52,226	61,208	75,432
Number of people who voted from overseas	28,145	33,278	21,496	40,132	61,524	62,787
Approx % of people who voted from overseas that had an overseas postal address				40%	38%	54%

Please find attached the requested data.

With regards to question 2, we note that in 2020 we provided you with information on the number of visits to the website, which is different to the information you have requested this time. People are able to visit the website but not actually download or upload anything. The data in the attachment reflects the number of people who have actually downloaded or uploaded voting papers.

With regards to question 3, we are not able to provide data on the approximate percentage of people who voted overseas who had an overseas postal address. We do not have access to this information as there is no direct correlation between having an overseas address on the electoral roll and voting from overseas. Overseas voters can be anyone including a New Zealand resident who is temporarily overseas or an overseas resident who does not have an overseas postal address.

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



Martin Rodgers
Director, Voting Services