

20 November 2023

By email to: [REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

### **OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT REQUEST 2023/105**

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

*In accordance with the purpose and the provisions of the above Act of Parliament are you both able and willing to provide me with all the documentation relating to*

*a The potential uncounted box of votes for the East Coast electorate*  
*In West Australia this type of event lead to another election*

*b As a Candidate in the electorate.*

*1 Am I entitled to every vote I earned/received?*

*2 Am I hence entitled to a recount?*

*3 Am I entitled to another election of some kind please?*

*c Thank you for the Port Waikato electoral roll. For some reason I received two rolls but no invoices or receipts Please investigate and advise*

*4 I heard mention of a independent review after this election*  
*I herein ask as per above to be kept up to date of this review.*

620 votes in the East Coast electorate that were included in the preliminary count were not included in the official count. The votes were in a ballot box at the electorate headquarters and were missed during the official count. The votes were counted and added to the electorate totals in the amended official results released by the Electoral Commission on 9 November 2023 The amended official results are available [here](#) and a link to the Gazette notice is available [here](#). The Commission's media release about this is available [here](#).

In Western Australia 1,370 senate votes went missing and were not located during the 2013 Senate recount. Because of the closeness of the recount result, the Australian Electoral Commission sought a petition in the Court of Disputed Returns, and the High Court ordered a re-run of the Western Australian Senate election. The situation regarding the 620 votes in the East Coast electorate is different, because the votes were able to be counted and added to the official results.

Electorate candidates can apply to a District Court Judge for a recount of the electorate vote. The application must be made within three days after the official results have been declared and include a deposit of \$1022.22. You can find out more information about recounts on our website: [Election recounts and petitions | Elections](#).

There will be a post-election select committee review undertaken by the Justice Committee. The results of this review will be made public when it is completed. More information about the review and how to make a submission after the election, will be available at: [https://www.parliament.nz/en/pb/sc/scl/justice/once\\_once](https://www.parliament.nz/en/pb/sc/scl/justice/once_once) select committees have been re-established for the 54th Parliament.

Any questions about the sale and purchase of electoral rolls should be directed to [rolls@elections.govt.nz](mailto:rolls@elections.govt.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



Kristina Temel  
Manager, Legal and Policy