

19 January 2024

By email to: [REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT REQUEST 2023/115

Thank you for your request of Thursday 14 December 2023 under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) regarding voting systems for general elections. Specifically, you have asked for:

1. *Titles of papers and advice to Government relating to preferential voting for the general election.*
2. *Details of any work done internally by the commission about preferential voting for the general election.*
3. *could i please also request the same information for advice and work on Single Transferable voting for the general election.*

The Electoral Commission administers the current Mixed Member Proportional electoral system prescribed in the Electoral Act 1993. The Commission does not provide papers and advice to Government related to alternative voting systems. Advice on legislative changes to the electoral system is given by the Ministry of Justice. The Electoral Commission has not done work internally about preferential voting or STV for the general election. The Electoral Commission is not able to provide the information you have requested as it is not held by the Commission. On this basis your request is refused under 18(e) of the Act.

However, the Electoral Commission was charged with developing and implementing an independent and neutral public education and information programme to inform voters about the 2011 Referendum process and the voting system alternatives in a readily understandable format. The resources produced included the features of each of the 5 voting systems:

- Mixed Member Proportional (MMP)
- First Past the Post system (FPP)
- Preferential Voting system (PV)
- Single Transferable Vote system (STV)
- Supplementary Member system (SM).

If you are interested in information provided by the Electoral Commission to voters as part of this information campaign, please let us know.

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



Kristina Temel
Manager, Legal and Policy