

13 September 2023

By email to: [REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT REQUEST 2022/47

Thank you for your request of 12 September 2023 under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) regarding voting data from the 2020 election. Specifically, you have asked for:

Can I have a breakdown by party of the Maori vs Non Maori voting in the 2020 election. This request is pursuant to the Official Information Act

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 section 18(e) of the Act.

Ballot papers from a general election are destroyed in the presence of the Clerk of the House of Representatives and an Electoral Commissioner. This occurs 6 months after an election, in accordance with section 189 of the Electoral Act 1993.

The process for counting the votes is prescribed in the Electoral Act 1993. Further, elections in New Zealand are conducted by 'secret ballot'. Due to the secrecy of the vote, there is no way to link Māori and non-Māori descent or other voter attributes with the party and candidate votes counted.

Therefore, under section 18(e) of the Act we are unable to provide you with any information with regard to your request.

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
Electoral Commission