

17 November 2023

██████████
By email to: ██████████

Dear ██████

OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT REQUEST 2023/78

On Thursday 19 October you made a request under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) for the following information:

1. *The number of all votes cast in all 49 Rotorua polling places in the Rotorua Electorate.*
2. *The number of votes cast in Rotorua for the General roll for the Rotorua Electorate.*
3. *The total number of printed ballots forms allocated to the Rotorua Electorate for the Rotorua Electorate.*
4. *The number of unfilled unused printed ballots for the Rotorua Electorate left over after election day.*
5. *The total number of special votes cast in all Rotorua Electorate polling places.*
6. *The number of printed ballot forms allocated to the Rotorua Electorate for special votes.*
7. *The number of unfilled unused special vote ballot forms in the Rotorua Electorate left over after election day.*
8. *The total number of votes cast in Rotorua for the Maori vote*
9. *The number of printed ballot forms allocated to the Rotorua Electorate for the Maori vote.*
10. *The number of unfilled unused Maori ballot forms in the Rotorua Electorate left over after election day.*

Thank you for your questions. We have provided the following responses:

1. *The number of all votes cast in all 49 Rotorua polling places in the Rotorua Electorate.*

Information by voting place and by electorate will be made public on 27 November 2023. This aspect of your request is therefore refused under section 18(d) of the Act on the basis that the information will soon be made publicly available.

This information will be available on the Electoral Commission's results website, found here: [New Zealand Election Results](#)

2. *The number of votes cast in Rotorua for the General roll for the Rotorua Electorate.*

Information by voting place and by electorate will be made public on 27 November 2023. This aspect of your request is therefore refused under section 18(d) of the Act on the basis that the information will soon be made publicly available.

This information will be available on the Electoral Commission's results website, found here: [New Zealand Election Results](#)

3. *The total number of printed ballots forms allocated to the Rotorua Electorate for the Rotorua Electorate.*

The Rotorua electorate was provided with 1700 pads. Each pad consists of 50 ballot papers, which brings the total to 85,000 ballot papers.

4. *The number of unfilled unused printed ballots for the Rotorua Electorate left over after election day.*

There were 47,692 left over ballot papers for the Rotorua electorate after election day.

5. *The total number of special votes cast in all Rotorua Electorate polling places.*

This information will be made public on 27 November 2023. This aspect of your request is therefore refused under section 18(d) of the Act. The information will be available here: [New Zealand Election Results](#)

6. *The number of printed ballot forms allocated to the Rotorua Electorate for special votes.*

Voting places are provided with two different pads in relation to special voting: E2 and E2-G pads. E2 relates to all electorates in New Zealand and E2-G relates to the respective electorate, in this case, Rotorua.

The E2 pad contains ballot papers for all the electorates in New Zealand: 1 ballot paper per electorate and 8 blank ballot papers. The Rotorua electorate was provided with 462 E2 pads. Each pad consists of 80 ballot papers, which brings the total to 36,960 ballot papers.

Note: The blank ballot papers serve as spare copies of ballot papers without a name of an electorate. When issued out, the name and number of an electorate is written on the blank ballot paper.

The E2-G pads contain ballot papers for the Rotorua electorate only. The electorate was provided with 456 E2-G pads. Each pad consists of 20 ballot papers, which brings the total to 9,120 ballot papers.

7. *The number of unfilled unused special vote ballot forms in the Rotorua Electorate left over after election day.*

There were 2,622 left over special vote ballot papers, calculated from the amount of ballot papers in the E2-G pads provided to the Rotorua electorate.

8. *The total number of votes cast in Rotorua for the Maori vote.*

Every place in New Zealand is covered by both a general electorate and a Māori electorate. Māori voters living in the Rotorua electorate also reside in the Waiariki electorate.

Information on the number of votes cast in the Waiariki electorate in Rotorua Voting Places will be made public on 27 November 2023. This aspect of your request is therefore refused under section 18(d) of the Act. The information will be available here: [New Zealand Election Results](#)

9. *The number of printed ballot forms allocated to the Rotorua Electorate for the Maori vote.*

For the 2023 General Election, the Commission supplied:

Ordinary Votes

1,104 ordinary ballot paper pads were provided for the Waiariki electorate to the Rotorua electorate. Each pad contains 20 ballot papers. This represents a total of 22,080 ordinary ballot papers for the Waiariki electorate.

Special Votes

331 E2-M special vote pads were provided for Waiariki to the Rotorua electorate. E2-M pads are electorate specific ballot paper pads. Each pad contains 20 ballot papers. This represents a total of 6,620 ballot papers for the Waiariki electorate.

462 E2 special vote pads were provided to the Rotorua electorate. E2 pads consist of 1 ballot paper for each electorate, as well as blank ballot papers. 462 ballot papers specific to Waiariki were therefore contained in the E2 special vote pads provided to the Rotorua electorate.

The sum total of Waiariki special vote ballot papers provided to Rotorua is 7,082.

10. *The number of unfilled unused Maori ballot forms in the Rotorua Electorate left over after election day*

The table below estimates the number of leftover ordinary ballot papers for Waiariki within the Rotorua electorate.

Māori Electorate	Ordinary ballot paper pads for the Waiariki electorate supplied to the Rotorua electorate	Waiariki ordinary votes issued by the Rotorua electorate	Leftover
72 Waiariki	22,080	7,528	14,522

Note: the Rotorua electorate did not issue ordinary votes for any Māori electorate other than Waiariki.

The table below estimates the number of leftover special ballot papers for all Māori electorates that could have been issued in voting places within the Rotorua electorate.

Māori Electorate	Special votes supplied	Special votes issued	Leftover
66 Hauraki-Waikato	462	121	341
67 Ikaroa-Rāwhiti	462	64	398
68 Tāmaki Makaurau	462	69	393
69 Te Tai Hauāuru	462	101	361
70 Te Tai Tokerau	462	34	428
71 Te Tai Tonga	462	46	416
72 Waiariki	7,082	2,200	4,882

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