

24 November 2023

By email to: [REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT REQUEST 2023/90

On Saturday 28 October 2023 you made a request under the Official Information Act 1982 (the OIA) for the following information:

- 1. The number of all votes cast in all polling places including the rest home team 1, rest home team 2, prison team and pop-up south coast in the 16 Invercargill Electorate.*
 - 2. The number of votes cast in Invercargill for the General roll for the 16 Invercargill Electorate.*
 - 3. The total number of printed ballots forms allocated to the Invercargill Electorate for the 16 Invercargill Electorate.*
 - 4. The number of unfilled / unused printed ballots for the 16 Invercargill Electorate left over after election day.*
 - 5. The total number of special votes cast in all 16 Invercargill Electorate polling places.*
 - 6. The number of printed ballot forms allocated to the 16 Invercargill Electorate for special votes.*
 - 7. The number of unfilled unused special vote ballot forms in the 16 Invercargill Electorate left over after election day.*
 - 8. The total number of votes cast in Invercargill for the Maori vote*
 - 9. The number of printed ballot forms allocated to the 16 Invercargill Electorate for the Maori vote.*
 - 10. The number of unfilled unused Maori ballot forms in the 16 Invercargill Electorate left over after election day.*
- As the ballot forms are all numbered it should make this easier.*
- 11. The copy of the EMS81-WKSHEET for all the voting places for the General and Maori roll in the 16 Invercargill Electorate.*

- 1. The number of all votes cast in all polling places including the rest home team 1, rest home team 2, prison team and pop-up south coast in the 16 Invercargill Electorate.*

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 on the basis that the information will soon be made publicly available.

This information will be available on the Electoral Commission's results website, under the statistics section of the 2023 General Election results, found here: [New Zealand Election Results](#)

2. *The number of votes cast in Invercargill for the General roll for the 16 Invercargill Electorate.*

The information that you have requested is publicly available. This aspect of your request is therefore refused under section 18(d) of the Act.

Election results for Invercargill can be found here: [Official count - Electorate Status \(electionresults.govt.nz\)](https://electionresults.govt.nz)

3. *The total number of printed ballots forms allocated to the Invercargill Electorate for the 16 Invercargill Electorate.*

The Invercargill electorate was provided with 1,600 pads. Each pad consists of 50 ordinary ballot papers, which brings the total to 80,000 ballot papers.

4. *The number of unfilled / unused printed ballots for the 16 Invercargill Electorate left over after election day.*

There were 42,105 left over Invercargill electorate ballot papers after election day.

5. *The total number of special votes cast in all 16 Invercargill 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 16 Invercargill 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, Invercargill.

The E2 pad contains ballot papers for all the electorates in New Zealand: 1 ballot paper per electorate and 8 blank ballot papers. The Invercargill electorate was provided with 512 E2 pads. Each pad consists of 80 ballot papers, which brings the total to 40,960 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 serial number of an electorate is written on the blank ballot paper.

The E2-G pads contain ballot papers for the Invercargill electorate only. The electorate was provided with 511 E2-G pads. Each pad consists of 20 ballot papers, which brings the total to 10,220 ballot papers.

7. *The number of unfilled unused special vote ballot forms in the 16 Invercargill Electorate left over after election day.*

There were 5,443 left over special vote ballot papers, calculated from the amount of ballot papers in the E2-G pads provided to the Invercargill electorate.

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

Information on the number of votes cast in the Te Tai Tonga electorate in Invercargill 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 16 Invercargill Electorate for the Maori vote.*

For the 2023 General Election, the Commission supplied:

Ordinary Votes

469 ordinary ballot paper pads were provided for the Te Tai Tonga electorate to the Invercargill electorate. Each pad contains 20 ballot papers, which brings the total to 9,380 ballot papers for the Te Tai Tonga electorate.

Special Votes

317 E2-M special vote pads were provided for Te Tai Tonga for the Invercargill electorate. E2-M are electorate specific ballot paper pads. Each pad contains 20 ballot papers. This represents a total of 6,340 ballot papers for the Te Tai Tonga electorate.

512 E2 special vote pads were provided to the Invercargill electorate. E2 pads consist of 1 ballot paper for each electorate, as well as blank ballot papers. 512 ballot papers specific to Te Tai Tonga were therefore contained in the E2 special vote pads provided to the Invercargill electorate.

The sum total of Te Tai Tonga special vote ballot papers provided to Invercargill is 6,852.

10. *The number of unfilled unused Maori ballot forms in the 16 Invercargill Electorate left over after election day.*

The table below estimates the number of left over ordinary ballot papers for Te Tai Tonga within the Invercargill electorate.

Māori Electorate	Ordinary ballot paper pads for the Te Tai Tonga electorate supplied to the Invercargill electorate	Te Tai Tonga ordinary votes issued by the Invercargill electorate	Leftover
Te Tai Tonga	9,380	1,675	7,705

Note: the Invercargill electorate did not issue ordinary votes for any Māori electorate other than Te Tai Tonga.

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 Invercargill electorate.

Māori Electorate	Special votes supplied	Special votes issued	Leftover
Hauraki-Waikato	512	4	508
Ikaroa-Rāwhiti	512	11	501
Tāmaki Makaurau	512	4	508
Te Tai Hauāuru	512	8	504
Te Tai Tokerau	512	6	506
Te Tai Tonga	6,852	301	6,551
Waiariki	512	11	501

11. The copy of the EMS81-WKSHEET for all the voting places for the General and Maori roll in the 16 Invercargill Electorate.

This part of your request is declined under sections 18(c)(i) of the Official Information Act on the grounds that making the requested information available in the manner requested would be contrary to the provisions of a specified enactment.

The Electoral Commission's statutory functions include carrying the provisions of the Electoral Act 1993 into effect. The integrity of electoral processes and the scrutiny of the results is assured through statutory provisions for scrutineers, judicial oversight, and processes detailed in the legislation for counting, recording, and releasing results in a way that parties, candidates, media and members of the public all have access to the same information.

The Electoral Act 1993 and Electoral Regulations 1996 do not provide for scrutineers or any other person to either photograph or be provided with copies of any documents, papers or certificates of results produced during the official count.

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