

13 November 2023

By email to: [REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

### **OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT REQUEST 2023/94**

On Friday 13 October 2023 you submitted an enquiry which we will treat as a request under the Official Information Act 1982 (the OIA) for the following information:

*After submission of a special ballot, is a voter able to learn whether their vote is counted or not counted because of some issue?*

*After uploading information to [vote.nz/upload](https://vote.nz/upload), how long is this retained, and what measures are in place to protect the personal information?*

*What vendor was chosen to implement the voting system, and what network security measures are in place to prevent information transmissions to outside New Zealand?*

#### **After submission of a special ballot, is a voter able to learn whether their vote is counted or not counted because of some issue?**

Following election day, during the official count, we compare all the rolls from voting places and compile a master roll for each electorate. This is created to complete a record of people who voted and identifies voters who may have voted more than once. The master roll includes the main roll and supplementary rolls, and a list of people who voted whose names were not on the roll. Once the master roll has been completed and the official results have been declared, the master roll and list for each electorate is held at the offices of the Electoral Commission under section 187(3) of the Electoral Act 1993 (the Act). The Act stipulates that the master roll is to be available for inspection by a registered elector of that electorate without charge and is only to be kept until the next election. After the election, a person can inspect the master roll and can take notes but is not permitted to copy or scan it (section 187(5) of the Act).

Electors who cast special votes can inspect the master roll. The master roll shows who has voted, but not who they voted for. The absence of a mark indicates that an enrolled elector has not voted.

Under the legislation, no person is authorised to receive master roll information during the poll or to receive master roll information electronically.

If you would like to inspect the master roll for your electorate, please get in touch with your local office here: [Contact our Enrolment team | Vote NZ](#)

The rules for the creation of the master roll are set out in [section 176\(1\) of the Act](#). The rules for public inspection of the master roll are set out in [section 187\(3\) to \(5\) of the Act](#).

**After uploading information to [vote.nz/upload](#), how long is this retained, and what measures are in place to protect the personal information?**

Uploaded information is retained in the Upload Voting Papers (UVP) system until the Return of the Writ at which point it is deleted. UVP is hosted on All of Government approved infrastructure. It is only accessible by authorised Electoral Commission officials working in specific New Zealand Electoral Commission offices.

Each authorised Electoral Commission official signs a witnessed declaration that they will not do anything forbidden by [section 203 of the Electoral Act 1993](#).

**What vendor was chosen to implement the voting system, and what network security measures are in place to prevent information transmissions to outside New Zealand?**

UVP is a purpose-built system developed in New Zealand for the exclusive use of the Electoral Commission. The Electoral Commission design, test and manage its development.

Specialist vendors were chosen to implement distinct aspects of UVP. These vendors are CATALYST CLOUD LIMITED (NZ Company Number 6276828), INTEGRATION WORKS LIMITED (NZ Company Number 1603828), LATERAL SECURITY (IT) SERVICES LIMITED (NZ Company Number 2105671), PIKSELIN LIMITED (NZ Company Number 3345972), and REVERA LIMITED (NZ Company Number 1181007).

The transmission of information outside of UVP is prevented by security controls. Further disclosure of the details of these security controls would prejudice the Electoral Commission's ability to prevent and detect cyber security threats and may also result in exposure of the information to those who may use this information for improper gain.

This gain or advantage could damage trust and confidence in the electoral system. We are refusing under the following sections of the Act: 6(c) - to avoid prejudice to the maintenance of the law; 9(2)(k) - to prevent the use of official information for improper gain or improper advantage and this is not outweighed by other considerations which render it desirable or in the public interest to make that information available.

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



Martin Rodgers  
Director, Voting Services