

13/02/23

By email to: [REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

### **OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT REQUEST 2023/01**

On 18 January 2023 you made a request under the Official Information Act 1982 (the OIA) for the following information:

*any information the Commission holds regarding the percentage levels of the urban / rural divide in all of NZ's electorates*

We have shaped the attached data using address information supplied by electors on their enrolment form. This address information is fed into Stats NZ meshblock units where we can see if an elector's address location is urban or rural. Stats NZ classifies meshblocks using the IUR indicator (IUR) into urban, rural and water areas. [Statistical standard for geographic areas 2023 \(stats.govt.nz\)](https://www.stats.govt.nz/publications/statistical-standard-for-geographic-areas-2023)

In some cases, an elector's exact meshblock is under investigation, though their electorate is known. This is likely due to the elector's supplied address not having an exact match in the Land Information New Zealand (LINZ) database. This is then followed up by our enrolment processing team to determine the correct address. Not having a match in the LINZ database can be due to errors on the enrolment form, a difference between postal and LINZ addresses, or new housing developments. In these cases that are under investigation, a meshblock, and subsequently the IUR classification, cannot be determined and is listed as unknown for the time being.

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](https://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz) or by phoning 0800 802 602.

Yours sincerely



Beth Kreitzer  
Principal Advisor Data and Insights