

22/02/2024

By email to: [REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT REQUEST 2024/07

On Wednesday, 24 January you made a request under the Official Information Act 1982 (the OIA) for the following information:

- *The number of overseas special votes cast in the New Zealand General Election for the 2023 election, 2020 election and 2017 election broken down by country. So where in the world the special vote has been cast from i.e. Australia, United Kingdom etc*
- *The number of downloads/uploads of voting papers online in the New Zealand General Election for the 2023 election, 2020 election and 2017 election broken down by country. So where in the world the special voting papers were downloaded or uploaded i.e. Australia, United Kingdom.*

The information requested has been attached to this letter.

Please note the following:

- Some countries had a very small number of votes. As voting is a choice made by the voter, for privacy reasons we have noted 'less than 20' for those countries.
- Overseas voters can receive and return their voting papers using different methods, such as voting in person at an overseas voting place, downloading them, or requesting a postal vote. When returning they can choose to return them by posting or hand delivering them to their nearest overseas voting place, by uploading them, or by posting them back to Aotearoa New Zealand. For this reason, the number of downloads and uploads will not necessarily match.
- Prior to 2023, voters could return their voting papers by fax. This was not an option for the 2023 General Election.

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