

5 April 2024

By email to: [REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

### **OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT REQUEST 2024/18**

On Friday, 8 March you made a request under the Official Information Act 1982 (the OIA) for the following information:

- 1) In isolation as a matter of policy, is having a firearms license enough of a reason to be moved to the private roll?*
- 2) If the answer is no, are there any contexts where a firearms license holder would be granted a place on the private roll (examples: a large number of firearms, certain endorsements on license for restricted/prohibited weapons, etc)?*
- 3) If the answer to question 1 is no, then what consultation or advice was the Electoral Commission given on this issue, if any? Please provide briefings/advice/correspondence documents supplied to the Commission on this matter, particularly the Firearms Safety Authority/New Zealand Police. If any other substantive submissions formed the basis of the policy beyond that of FSA/NZP's submission, please include them.*
- 4) Excluding New Zealand Police and the Firearms Safety Authority, what other entities provided advice on this issue, if any?*

Section 115 of the Electoral Act 1993 provides that the Electoral Commission may, upon application, withhold the publication of a person's name on an electoral roll that may be available for public inspection, or not make available for inspection any such application or the person's details, if satisfied that doing so would be prejudicial to the personal safety of that person or their family.

This is known as the unpublished roll.

The Commission does not have a policy in relation to having a firearms licence being sufficient to meet the statutory test to be on the unpublished roll.

A person who is eligible to enrol to vote in New Zealand, and who believes their safety, or the safety of their family, is at risk because they hold a firearms licence, would need to apply in writing, and provide reasons or evidence why having a firearms licence is prejudicial to their safety. Each application would be considered individually, and a decision made based on the reasons/evidence provided.

The Electoral Commission has not engaged in consultation, and has not received any advice, on this issue.

Further information on applying to go onto the Unpublished Roll can be found on our website, [www.vote.nz](http://www.vote.nz) along with a link to download an application form.

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



Ross McPherson  
Director  
Enrolment