

10 April 2024

By email to: [REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

### **OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT REQUEST 2024/20**

On Tuesday 19 March 2024 you made a request under the Official Information Act 1982 (the OIA) for the following information:

*How many non-New Zealand citizens were eligible to vote at the 2023 general election?*

We are declining your request under s18(e) of the OIA as the Electoral Commission does not collect information about the citizenship of voters, and therefore doesn't hold the information you have requested.

To be eligible to vote in New Zealand, a person must be:

- 18 years or older; and
- A citizen or a permanent resident of New Zealand; and
- have ever lived in New Zealand continuously for one year or more.

For electoral purposes, a permanent resident is anyone lawfully in New Zealand and not required to leave within a specific time. This includes someone on a resident visa. Australians, Cook Islanders, Niueans, and Tokelauans can enrol if they have lived in New Zealand continuously for one year or more.

New Zealand citizens who live overseas must have been in New Zealand within the last three years to be eligible to enrol and vote, and New Zealand permanent residents who live overseas must have been in New Zealand within the last 12 months.

When a person makes an application to register as an elector, they make a declaration that they are eligible to enrol. There is no requirement for an applicant living in New Zealand to confirm what citizenship they hold. Please note, since 2019 the form requires applicants who live overseas to confirm whether they are a citizen or a permanent resident of New Zealand, along with the date they were last in New Zealand.

More information about enrolment eligibility can be found here: <https://vote.nz/enrolling/get-ready-to-enrol/are-you-eligible-to-enrol-and-vote/>

More information about the 2023 General Election can be found here: <https://elections.nz/democracy-in-nz/historical-events/2023-general-election/?ref=btn>

I have attached an enrolment form, this shows what information the Electoral Commission captures.

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