

10 February 2026

By email to: [REDACTED]

Kia ora [REDACTED]

OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT REQUEST 2026/03

On 1 January 2026 you made a request under the Official Information Act 1982 (the OIA) to Te Tai Ōhanga The Treasury. On 8 January 2026 your request was formally transferred under section 14 of the OIA to the Electoral Commission, as your request more clearly relates to the functions of the Commission. You have requested the following information:

PART 1 – AUTHORITY & FUNCTION

1. *Authority to Compile or Maintain the Electoral Roll*
Provide the lawful instrument(s) relied upon by the Electoral Commission to collect, compile, maintain, and publish electoral roll data relating to living men and women.
Include all enabling Acts, regulations, delegations, warrants, or contracts relied upon.
2. *Nature of Electoral Roll Participation*
Confirm whether enrolment is treated as voluntary, compulsory, or presumed by default, and provide the statutory source relied upon for that position.

PART 2 - DATA ORIGIN & CLASSIFICATION

3. *Source of Personal Data*
Identify all source agencies, systems, or third parties from which electoral roll data is obtained.
4. *Data Classification*
State how electoral roll records are classified and provide any internal definitions or policy documents relied upon.

PART 3 - CONSENT & NOTICE

5. *Evidence of Consent*
Produce the form, record, or lawful basis relied upon as evidence of consent for enrolment and ongoing retention.
6. *Notice of Consequences*
Provide copies of any notices informing persons of consequences, penalties, or opt-out mechanisms.

PART 4 - ENFORCEMENT & PENALTIES

7. *Penalty Authority*
Identify the statutory authority relied upon to issue warnings or penalties.

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8. *Delegation of Enforcement*

Specify whether enforcement powers are delegated and provide copies of any delegation instruments.

PART 5 - RECORD KEEPING & AUDIT

9. *Record Retention Policies*

Provide policies governing creation, retention, correction, and deletion of records.

10. *Audit Trails*

Confirm whether audit logs or amendment histories are maintained and provide sample formats.

PART 6 - LEGAL CHARACTER & STATUS

11. *Definition of "Elector"*

Provide the operational definition used by the Commission.

12. *Distinction Between Living Person and Legal Construct*

Confirm whether such a distinction is recognised.

PART 7 - REMEDY & CORRECTION

13. *Correction Mechanisms*

Identify formal processes to challenge enrolment or remove data.

14. *Internal Review & Escalation*

Provide details of review, complaint, and escalation pathways.

Responses to each of your questions are outlined below:

1. The [Electoral Act 1993](#) and the [Electoral Regulations 1996](#) are the lawful instrument(s) relied upon by the Electoral Commission to collect, compile, maintain, and publish electoral roll data.
2. Enrolment is compulsory under section 82 of the Electoral Act.
3. Sources agencies, systems, or third parties from which electoral roll data is obtained is outlined here in the Electoral Commission's [privacy and security statement](#) and the Electoral Commission's Personal Information and Privacy Act policy (attached). Information can also be obtained from Director of Mental Health, Prison Managers, Registrar-General appointed under the Births Deaths and Marriages and Relationships Registration Act 2021, and Registrar of Court in accordance with sections 57 to 58, 80, 86AA to 86H, 92 to 94, and information disclosed pursuant to sections 263A and 263B of the Electoral Act from Ministry of Business, Innovation & Employment, Ministry of Social Development, New Zealand Transport Agency and Registrar of Motor Vehicles.
4. Electoral roll records are available in accordance with the Electoral Act which is also summarised in the Electoral Commission's [privacy and security statement](#) and the Electoral Commission's Personal Information and Privacy Act policy (attached). We use the classification system under the Protective Security Requirements (PSR) when undertaking assessments of personal information in which case published electoral roll records are classified as "in confidence" and unpublished electoral roll records held under section 115 of the Electoral Act are "sensitive".

5. As noted in response 2 above, enrolment is compulsory so evidence of consent for enrolment and ongoing retention is not held.
6. There are no copies of notices informing people of consequences and penalties. The offences and penalties for failing to register or failing to update your details are set out in sections 82, 89B and 89C of the Act. As outlined in the response to question 1, enrolment of eligible electors in New Zealand is compulsory and there are no opt-out mechanisms.
7. See the response to question 6 above. This sets out the penalties. The Electoral Commission does not have the power to issue warnings or penalties. Matters can be referred to New Zealand Police. Warnings and penalties are matters for Police and the Courts.
8. See the response to question 7 above.
9. For information regarding creation, retention, correction and deletion of records see the Electoral Commission's [privacy and security statement](#) and the Electoral Commission's Personal Information and Privacy Act policy (attached).
10. We maintain an audit log of all amendments made to person, correspondence, and address records. These show the user, date and time, what changed, and who checked the transaction. We log the following details of transactions:
 - date and time
 - client IP address
 - user agent string
 - URL accessed
 - session ID
 - screen and transaction specific data.

The request for sample formats of audit logs is declined under section 6(c) of the OIA on the ground that making this information available would be likely to prejudice the maintenance of the law, and under section 9(2)(k) of the OIA on the ground that withholding this information is necessary to prevent the disclosure or use of official information for improper gain or improper advantage. Disclosure of this information 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. Where information has been withheld under section 9(2)(k) I am satisfied that the reasons for withholding of the information are not outweighed by other considerations which render it desirable, in the public interest, to make that information available.

11. The definition of 'elector' used by the Electoral Commission is the definition contained in section 3 of the Electoral Act: elector, in relation to any district, means a person registered, or qualified to be registered, as an elector of that district.
12. As outlined in the response to question 11 above, the Commission uses the definition of elector in the Electoral Act.

13. The process for seeking a correction is outlined in the Electoral Commission's [privacy and security statement](#) and the Electoral Commission's Personal Information and Privacy Act policy (attached).
14. There is a formal objections process to challenge enrolment on the ground that a person is not qualified to be registered as an elector of that district. The objections process is outlined in sections 95 to 97 of the Electoral Act. There is no opt-out. A standard template response to a request to be removed is attached.
15. The internal review and escalation process for enrolment applications is Enrolment Officer/Senior Enrolment Officer, Team Leader Processing, Director Enrolment, Deputy Chief Executive Operations, Chief Electoral Officer but the process varies depending on whether it is the escalation of an application or statutory objection.

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



Kristina Temel
Manager, Legal Regulation and Policy