

1 September 2025

By email to: [REDACTED]

Kia ora [REDACTED]

OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT REQUEST 2025/63

On Thursday, 21 August 2025 you made a request under the Official Information Act 1982 (the OIA) for the following information:

How many times in last 6 years has the Electoral Commission audited the Māori roll in an effort to identify any people that are non-Māori?

Please provide dates the roll was audited for this purpose.

Please provide the number of times in the last 6 years that non-Māori have been identified on the Māori roll.

Please provide any communications or internal documents relating to concerns around non-Māori joining the Māori roll.

Has non-Māori joining the Māori roll been formally identified as potential risk to the integrity of the Māori roll? If yes, please provide any and all documentation and communications concerning this, the date this recognized and what systems, checks and balances were put in place to negate this risk.

Responses to each of your questions are outlined below:

- 1. How many times in last 6 years has the Electoral Commission audited the Māori roll in an effort to identify any people that are non-Māori?*

The Electoral Act 1993 (the Act) contains detailed provisions for conducting enrolment update campaigns and objections procedures for maintaining the accuracy and integrity of the electoral roll. There is no power under the legislation to audit the Māori roll to identify any people that are non-Māori.

Only New Zealand Māori and descendants of New Zealand Māori can choose to be on a Māori roll. Everyone else, including Cook Island Māori and other Pacific Island people must be on the General roll.

Electoral Commission
Level 4, 34-42 Manners Street, PO Box 3220, Wellington 6140, New Zealand
Telephone +64 4 495 0030

www.vote.nz | www.elections.nz

When electors enrol or update their details with us, they are legally declaring that all the information they have provided is true and correct.

Section 118 of the Electoral Act 1993 stipulates that "every person who knowingly and wilfully makes a false statement in any application, certificate, or information supplied for the purposes of this Part is liable on conviction to -

- (a) a term of imprisonment not exceeding 3 months; or
- (b) a fine not exceeding \$2,000."

Under Section 95 of the Electoral Act, any elector may object to the name of a person being on the roll for a district on the ground that that person is not qualified to be registered as an elector of that district. To do so the person making the objection must provide their name, the ground for the objection, and the reason or reasons supporting the ground for objection. Where sufficient particulars are provided by an objector the Commission must personally serve notice of this information on the person objected to enable the Commission to determine if their name should be retained or removed from the roll.

- 2. *Please provide dates the roll was audited for this purpose.*

Not applicable. See response to question 1 above.

- 3. *Please provide the number of times in the last 6 years that non-Māori have been identified on the Māori roll.*

In the last 6 years, the Commission has received 6 objections from electors under section 95 of the Act. None of these related to whether or not a person was of Māori descent.

- 4. *Please provide any communications or internal documents relating to concerns around non-Māori joining the Māori roll.*

Not applicable. See responses to questions 1 and 2 above.

- 5. *Has non-Māori joining the Māori roll been formally identified as potential risk to the integrity of the Māori roll? If yes, please provide any and all documentation and communications concerning this, the date this recognized and what systems, checks and balances were put in place to negate this risk.*

No. As this information does not exist, we refuse this aspect of your request pursuant to section 18 (e) of the OIA.

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



Anusha Guler
Deputy Chief Executive, Operations