

26 January 2026

By email to: [REDACTED]

Kia ora [REDACTED]

OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT REQUEST 2025/90

On Tuesday, 9 December 2025 you made a request under the Official Information Act 1982 (the OIA) for the following information:

1. National Electoral Roll Integrity – Data & Oversight

- *All internal reports, audits, or assessments relating to electoral roll integrity for the period 2020–2025.*
- *Copies of any analysis concerning duplicate enrolments, multiple-address enrolments, or deceased electors remaining on the roll.*
- *Any data held regarding removals of deceased electors during 2022–2025, including methodology and frequency of updates.*
- *Any correspondence with the Department of Internal Affairs regarding death-registration data matching.*
- *National-level statistics showing roll accuracy, error rates, and corrective actions for the 2022 and 2025 electoral cycles.*

2. Oversight of Rangitikei District Council Elections (2022 & 2025)

- *Any complaints, incident reports, or notifications received by the Electoral Commission regarding the conduct of RDC elections.*
- *Any communications between RDC's Electoral Officer and the Electoral Commission concerning vote handling, scrutineer access, or chain-of-custody concerns.*
- *Any advice the Electoral Commission issued to RDC regarding electoral roll updates, candidate roll access, or integrity concerns.*
- *Any internal correspondence referencing irregularities, anomalies, or potential breaches of electoral integrity relating to RDC.*

3. Early Opening, Handling, or Transport of Voting Documents

- *Any information held regarding the opening of sealed vote containers prior to official counting.*
- *Any information received concerning couriers delivering isolated voting containers late, or lacking chain-of-custody documentation.*
- *Any policies, guidance, or directives concerning the early unsealing, resealing, or inspection of local election voting bins or containers.*
- *Any reports or risk assessments identifying vulnerabilities in the transport or chain-of-custody process for local election ballots.*

Electoral Commission
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4. Electoral Commission Role in Local Election Record Retention

- Any guidance the Electoral Commission issued to RDC regarding records retention and destruction for 2022 and 2025 elections.
- Any correspondence discussing destruction of election records or compliance with the Public Records Act.
- Any national policies defining minimum expectations of 'duty of candour' or transparency for local electoral officers.

Note in response to a request for further clarification dated 9 December 2025, you confirmed that for questions 2-4 you are requesting 'Does the Electoral Commission hold any correspondence, emails, internal notes, or data that reference: Rangitīkei District Council (RDC), RDC elections (2022 or 2025), any member of the public raising concerns about roll integrity in RDC, any officer or Returning Officer requesting guidance or clarifications, and any issues flagged in your roll-supply processes for that district.

5. Request for National-Level Election Roll Audit Material

- Any reports comparing enrolment data with national death records, immigration records, or population movements during 2020–2025.
- Any internal analysis conducted by the Electoral Commission identifying districts with unusually high anomalies, duplicate electors, or deceased electors on the roll.
- Any specific findings relating to Rangitīkei District within national audit results.

Responses to each of your questions are outlined below:

1. National Electoral Roll Integrity – Data & Oversight

We have safeguards to ensure the accuracy and integrity of the electoral roll.

When we receive an application to enrol, checks include:

- if the person is already enrolled, or has been enrolled previously
- if the address given is a valid address, and how many other people are enrolled at that address
- an automatic eligibility check against an Immigration New Zealand database.

When anyone enrolls, they sign a statutory declaration that the information they are providing is correct. They are also informed that giving false or misleading information is a criminal offence.

Under the Electoral Act 1993 a person who is eligible to enrol must register at the address where they usually live. The rules in the Act require a person to have lived in the electorate for one month before they are eligible to enrol and vote there.

It's an offence under [section 118](#) of the Act to make a false statement on an application to enrol. If we receive information that indicates someone has provided false information on an enrolment form, we would look into it. There is also an objection process where an elector can raise an

objection to another person's enrolment, and if that occurs, we follow the process in the Act for responding to an objection.

We have a system of continuous enrolment so the rolls are being maintained on a daily basis, as people are added and placed on the dormant roll and removed from the roll.

By law, eligible electors must enrol, and keep their enrolment details up to date.

It is important for the accuracy and integrity of the electoral rolls that they are kept up to date, to ensure voters are correctly enrolled to vote in the electorate (or ward or area for local elections) where they have lived for the last month.

The Commission is required to send correspondence to electors when they register or update their enrolment details and we have to write to all electors to make sure their details are up to date and send Māori Electoral Option information to Māori electors before local and general elections.

We also send EasyVote correspondence to provide information to electors about voting at parliamentary elections and we send enrolment update packs to all enrolled electors before local and general elections. If at any time, correspondence from the Commission comes back gone no address, and the whereabouts of the elector are not known, the Commission must, following any inquiries the Commission thinks fit, remove the elector from the main roll and place them on the dormant roll.

There are automated processes in the enrolment management system to detect potential duplicates and data exception reports (roll cleanses). A copy of roll cleanse process documents are attached.

The enrolment team also undertake Quality Assurance (QA) checks as follows:

- Paper applications – 100 percent of paper applications are QA checked.
- On-line applications – Upon entry, a randomly selected sample is QA checked. For example, in the quarter from July to September 2025, 15,133 QA checks were completed.

A copy of the quality assurance process documentation and results are attached. Prior to 2023 quality assurance checks were manual and once actioned statistics and dashboards were not retained. Results of a roll accuracy survey in 2020 and national level QA checks from 2023 to 2025 are attached.

A copy of the Commission's internal documentation for the enrolment update campaign 2025 and the dormant roll process are also attached.

Sections 92, 93 and 94 of the Electoral Act allow collection of information from Births, Deaths and Marriages (BDM), Department of Internal Affairs (DIA) to ensure the accuracy of the rolls. We receive daily reports from Births, Deaths and Marriages (BDM) of deaths within New Zealand, and we use these reports to update the electoral roll and remove people who have died.

We also remove someone from the roll if we receive a signed letter from a family member or a lawyer notifying us of a death, for example if someone has died overseas.

If a third party notifies us of a death, or if mail from the Electoral Commission is returned to us marked 'deceased', we seek independent confirmation from BDM.

The Electoral Commission has received electronic files from BDM since 2006 and notifications from BDM were fully automated from 2018. A copy of the MOU with the Department of Internal Affairs (DIA) for that is attached.

Some contact details, such as phone numbers, some email addresses, and names, have been withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the OIA which relates to the privacy of natural persons. In each case where redactions have been made under section 9(2)(a), consideration has been given to, and 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.

Between start 1 Jan 2022 and end of 17 Dec 2025, there were 143,503 people removed from the roll due to being deceased 143,051 (EROE8), 452 (deceased). EROE8 are death notices that come in from DIA each workday and are processed by the enrolment team, while "deceased" are transactions where we find out about the death of an elector in another way (for example a returned enrolment form from a relative, or other correspondence). Breakdown by month and electorate is attached.

In 2020, we had some questions raised regarding EasyVote cards being sent to a person that had died and we were asked for reasons and numbers of incidents of this. This can happen for the following reasons:

- if we have not yet been notified of their death by BDM
- if the list for the EasyVote card mailout is compiled before we receive a death notification
- if we have received a death notification but not been able to match it with certainty to a person in our enrolment records
- if a person dies overseas and we have not been notified by authorities. If a family member informs us of the death, we will take that person off the roll.

We identified 16 cases where this had happened in 2020.

- In one case, we had no record of being notified of the death which had taken place in 2003 when manual record systems were in place. No electoral mail had been returned from the address.
- In one case, we had no record of a death notification, though a family member was sure she had notified the Commission.
- In one case, the person had died while overseas and we had not been notified. We removed the person from the roll on the advice of the family.
- In 13 cases, we had not received a death notification from BDM, but the EasyVote packs had been returned to us with the word "Deceased" written on the envelope. This indicated that

the data extract for the EasyVote mailout had occurred before their deaths. Their names were removed from the roll when we received confirmation of their death.

Cases broken down by electorate were as follows (one in each electorate unless otherwise stated): Whanganui, Kaikōura, Remutaka (2), Wairarapa, Taupō, West Coast-Tasman, Te Tai Hauāuru, East Coast Bays, Hutt South, Te Tai Tonga, Mt Roskill, New Plymouth, Epsom, North Shore, Auckland Central.

In November 2024, we received a media enquiry from a Christchurch journalist who had been told that a person on the electoral roll in Christchurch was in fact deceased. The journalist had also been told that the local council had notified the Commission in 2011 of the person's death, and that the voter had been recorded as voting in local body and general elections after that time.

We looked into the matter and responded to confirm that we received an enquiry from the Christchurch City Council in 2019 about the person's enrolment. We checked with BDM at the time and checked again last week, and had no reason to remove them from the roll. We noted that there is often more than one person on the electoral roll with the same name. A high degree of certainty is required before removing someone from the electoral roll. We receive daily reports from Births, Deaths and Marriages (BDM) and we use these reports to update the electoral roll and remove people who have died. We also remove someone from the roll if we receive a signed letter from a family member or a lawyer notifying us of a death, for example if someone has died overseas. If a third party notifies us of a death, or if mail from the Electoral Commission is returned to us marked 'deceased', we seek independent confirmation from BDM.

2. Oversight of Rangitikei District Council Elections (2022 & 2025)

The Electoral Commission received ten enquiries regarding RDC elections. Copies of the enquiries and responses are attached. Copies of communications provided to the electoral officer for RDC regarding enrolment, candidate eligibility and special vote processing are attached.

Some contact details and personal information, such as phone numbers, some email addresses, and names, have been withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the OIA which relates to the privacy of natural persons. In each case where redactions have been made under section 9(2)(a), consideration has been given to, and 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.

As local elections are not conducted by the Electoral Commission, the Electoral Commission did not have and does not hold any other records relating to:

- *communications between RDC's Electoral Officer and the Electoral Commission concerning vote handling, scrutineer access, or chain-of-custody concerns.*
- *advice the Electoral Commission issued to RDC regarding electoral roll updates, candidate roll access, or integrity concerns.*

- *internal correspondence referencing irregularities, anomalies, or potential breaches of electoral integrity relating to RDC.*

3. Early Opening, Handling, or Transport of Voting Documents

As local elections are not conducted by the Electoral Commission, the Electoral Commission does not have any documents or records:

- *regarding the opening of sealed vote containers prior to official counting.*
- *information received concerning couriers delivering isolated voting containers late, or lacking chain-of-custody documentation.*
- *policies, guidance, or directives concerning the early unsealing, resealing, or inspection of local election voting bins or containers.*
- *reports or risk assessments identifying vulnerabilities in the transport or chain-of-custody process for local election ballots.*

4. Electoral Commission Role in Local Election Record Retention

A copy of the email template for sending local authority extracts is attached.

As local elections are not conducted by the Electoral Commission, the Electoral Commission does not have any additional documents or records relating to:

- *guidance the Electoral Commission issued to RDC regarding records retention and destruction for 2022 and 2025 elections.*
- *correspondence discussing destruction of election records or compliance with the Public Records Act.*
- *national policies defining minimum expectations of 'duty of candour' or transparency for local electoral officers.*

5. Request for National-Level Election Roll Audit Material

Any reports comparing enrolment data with national death records, immigration records, or population movements during 2020–2025.

See response to question 1 re death records.

The Electoral Commission is authorised under section 263A the Electoral Act to information match with Immigration New Zealand for the purpose of determining whether someone is ineligible for enrolment, due to their immigration status. A copy of the Electoral Commission's annual reports to the Privacy Commissioner on this process for 2019/20, 2020/21, 2021/22, 2022/23 and 2023/24 are attached.

Some contact details, such as phone numbers, some email addresses, and names, have been withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the OIA which relates to the privacy of natural persons. In each case where redactions have been made under section 9(2)(a) of the OIA, consideration has been given to, and 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.

Statistics related to enrolment rates and estimated eligible population are outlined below:

Date (as at end of day)	Total Electors	Estimated Eligible Population	Enrolment rate
1-Jan-20	3,252,134	3,667,040	88.7%
1-Jan-21	3,550,624	3,772,100	94.1%
1-Jan-22	3,515,036	3,772,100	93.2%
1-Jan-23	3,429,829	3,871,418	88.6%
1-Jan-24	3,688,236	3,893,946	94.7%
1-Jan-25	3,650,180	4,096,874	89.1%
21-Dec-25	3,591,951	4,096,874	87.7%

The Commission does not hold information relating to internal analysis conducted by the Electoral Commission identifying districts with unusually high anomalies, duplicate electors, or deceased electors on the roll or any specific findings relating to Rangitikei District within national audit results.

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



Nicola Hogg
Director, Enrolment