

3 July 2024

By email to: [REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT REQUEST 2024/42

On Wednesday 12 June 2024 you made a request under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) for the following information:

In 1975, an electoral amendment allowed permanent residents to vote in New Zealand. We would like to request the statistics of voters registered on the rolls prior to this amendment and during the next elections in 1975, 1978 and 2023 following the amendment. The information is required by ethnicity (absolute, must equal 100% total) especially European, Māori, Pacifica, Asian and Others. The information is also required by each of the 52 districts of New Zealand or alternatively by the designated electorates of New Zealand.

Please provide us with a copy of the referendum results that specifically addressed the question of franchising permanent resident so that can vote in elections. Details of when this was done and the results if possible, by categorisation of ethnicity

The change was introduced by an amendment to the Electoral Act passed by Parliament that came into effect on 22 August 1975 prior to the 1975 General Election. There was no referendum held to allow permanent residents to vote. This change did not require a referendum or a 75% majority of the House of Representatives as it is not an entrenched provision under section 268 of the Electoral Act 1993 (previously section 189 of the Electoral Act 1956). As the referendum information requested is not held this aspect of your request is refused under section 18(g) of the Act.

A person must be of Māori descent to enrol on the Māori roll. Information about whether an elector is of Māori descent is collected on the [enrolment-form.pdf \(vote.nz\)](#), however, other ethnicity is not required in an application to enrol and for that reason we cannot provide the ethnicity breakdown that you have requested. As the information requested is not held this aspect of your request is refused under section 18(g) of the Act.

For 1972 to 1978 elections, copies of results for the general election including overall enrolment numbers and numbers of enrolled electors by electorate as at the date of the general election, are attached.

For the 2023 General Election, the total number of enrolled electors was 3,688,292 including general roll non-Māori 3,121,280, general roll Māori 276,712 and Māori roll 290,300. A breakdown by electorate is available here [Maori-Descent-Enrolment-Stats-2023-GE-Revised-v2.xlsx \(live.com\)](#).

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 and Policy

Encl.