

29 November 2024

By email to: [REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

### OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT REQUEST 2024/68

On the evening of 1 November 2024, you made a request under the Official Information Act 1982 (the OIA) for the following information:

*I am requesting a digital copy of the blank ballots used in the 2023 New Zealand General Election for each general and Māori electorate. Specifically, I am seeking a copy of the actual blank or sample ballot papers provided to voters in each electorate, rather than just a list of candidate names.*

Thank you for your request for a digital copy of blank ballots used in the 2023 New Zealand General Election.

Your request is declined under section 18(c)(i) of the Official Information Act on the grounds that making available of the information requested would be contrary to the provisions of a specified enactment.

The Electoral Act contains a number of provisions restricting access to ballot papers except for the purposes of voting.

Under section 196A of the Electoral Act 1993 it is unlawful for a person without authority under the Electoral Act to obtain possession of any ballot paper and section 187 of the Electoral Act requires all unused ballot papers to be destroyed. 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



Kristina Temel  
Manager, Legal and Policy