

22 May 2025

By email to: [REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT REQUEST 2025/27

On 30 April 2025 you made a request under the Official Information Act 1982 (the OIA) for the following information:

It has been recently announced that Cabinet has agreed to reinstate a total ban on prisoners voting in general elections.

Please provide any correspondence and/or papers the Commission has had with the current Cabinet on this matter.

Please also provide any internal reports / papers / correspondence that the Commission has prepared on this matter.

Please find answers to your questions below:

Please provide any correspondence and/or papers the Commission has had with the current Cabinet on this matter.

The Electoral Commission does not hold any correspondence with Cabinet on this matter. It is the role of the Ministry of Justice to develop and provide advice on justice matters to Ministers and Cabinet, and the Ministry is responsible for papers on this matter.

The Ministry of Justice proactively releases all Cabinet papers and related material. Please find the attached paper – Proactive-Release-Prisoner-Voting_FINAL.pdf. This document contains the briefing paper on this matter and Paper 4 – Cabinet Paper – Disqualification and sentenced prisoners. You can also find these papers on the Ministry of Justice’s website [here](#).

Please also provide any internal reports / papers / correspondence that the Commission has prepared on this matter.

Please find attached all internal correspondence relating to this matter.

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.

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