

30 May 2025

By email to: [REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT REQUEST 2025/30

On Tuesday 6 May 2025, you made a request under the Official Information Act 1982 (the OIA) for the following information:

through a stream of emails to the Electoral Commission I have requested information relating to the documentation / policies / procedures that are used as guidance when the the Commission is applying section 115 of the Electoral Act 1993.

As I have not received a response, I am now making a request under the Official Information Act for the above information.

The criteria for being enrolled to vote on the unpublished electoral roll is stipulated in section 115 of the Electoral Act 1995. The key criteria in section 115 are:

- An application must be made to the Electoral Commission.
- The Electoral Commission must be satisfied that publishing a person's name would be prejudicial to that person's safety, or the safety of that person's family.

If the Electoral Commission is satisfied that these criteria have been met, it may direct that the name, address and occupation of that person shall not be published, shall not be made available for inspection, and that the application itself shall not be made available for inspection. Section 115 also provides, without limiting the discretion of the Electoral Commission, specific examples of evidence that demonstrate personal safety concerns.

The Electoral Commission does not have a specific policy relating to the consideration of applications for the unpublished electoral roll. That is because those considerations are driven by the criteria clearly stipulated in section 115 of the Act.

We do, however, have Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) that describe the procedures and processes relevant to processing applications for the unpublished electoral roll. A copy of the SOP relating to unpublished processes is attached, as requested.

Parts of this are withheld under section 6(c) of the Act where they may prejudice the maintenance of the law and compromise security arrangements at elections. 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 addition, a copy of the unpublished application process map and a copy of the unpublished roll application form are attached.

If any decision is disputed, the application will first be reviewed by the Team Leader of the Unpublished Team. If necessary, the matter can then be escalated to the Director of Enrolment, who has delegated authority from the Chief Electoral Officer to make the final decision.

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



Ross McPherson
Director, Enrolment