14 April 2023

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By email to: █████████████████

Dear █████

OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT REQUEST 2023/08

On 21 March 2023 you made a request under the Official Information Act 1982 (the OIA) for the following information:

> *the following numbers of how many voters fit the following descriptions.*
> - *Total voter population*
> - *General voter population*
> - *General North Island voter population*
> - *General South Island voter population*
> - *Māori voter population*
> - *Māori North Island voter population*
> - *Māori South Island voter population*
> *Could I also have the same numbers for 1993 and 1996*

Currently the Electoral Commission receives eligible population estimates annually from Stats NZ. The estimated eligible population is not broken down by ethnicity, is only calculated for general electorates, and includes those on both the general and Māori rolls, because of the geographic overlap of general and Māori electorates, and the roll type choice voters of Māori descent have. Thus, we are unable to provide an estimated eligible elector population count on Māori or non-Māori descent.

The estimated eligible population as at June 30, 2022 (latest figures available) for all of New Zealand is 3,871,418. The estimated eligible population as at June 30, 2022 (latest figures available) for electors registered in the North Island is 2,950,202. The estimated eligible population as at June 30, 2022 (latest figures available) for electors registered in the South Island is 921,216. Stats NZ provides the estimated eligible population based on the previous census. Calculations for the estimated eligible population change from time to time to account for internal migration, immigration, and eligibility status.

The Electoral Commission publishes enrolment statistics every month showing how many people are currently enrolled to vote in each general electorate, Māori electorate, local council district, and council voting area on our website: Enrolment statistics | Elections. We also publish quarterly statistics on enrolled electors, broken down by general electorate the elector lives within, age, Māori descent, and roll type (Māori Roll or General Roll).

We have included scans of the 1993 and 1996 General Election statistics as this data has not been digitized.

These statistics will only show you the total electoral population, general electorate totals and Māori electorate totals for the years requested.

Electoral Population in column K of the 1993 statistics is defined as:

ELECTORAL POPULATION:

(a) in respect of General electoral districts means the "General electoral population" as defined in the Electoral Act 1956 and drawn from the 1991 census.

(b) in respect of Maori electoral districts means the "Maori electoral population" as defined in the Electoral Act 1956 and drawn from the 1991 Maori option exercise in conjunction with statistics from the last census.

Electoral Population in column J of the 1996 statistics is defined as:

Electoral Population

The *General electoral population* is the total ordinarily resident population as established by the 1991 population census with the exception of the Maori electoral population.

The *Maori electoral population* is calculated as follows by the Government Statistician.

$$\frac{\text{Number enrolled on the Maori roll}}{\text{Number of Maori enrolled on the Maori roll} + \text{Number of Maori enrolled on the General roll}} \times \text{Census Maori descent population} = \text{Maori electoral population}$$

There was a significant change of electorate boundaries for the 1996 General Election, based on the provisions of the Electoral Act 1993.

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

Beth Kreitzer
Principal Advisor Data and Insights