

09 August 2023

By email to: [REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT REQUEST 2023/28

On Wednesday 26 July 2023 you made a request under the Official Information Act 1982 (the OIA) for the following information:

1. *Will the upcoming 2023 General Election provide New Zealand voters the option to cast a vote of no confidence?*
2. *If not, when was the last time New Zealand voters were able to cast a vote of no confidence during a General Election?*

The Electoral Commission is required to administer elections in accordance with the [Electoral Act 1993](#).

The form of the ballot paper for parliamentary elections is prescribed in section 150 and form 11 of the Electoral Act.

The upcoming 2023 General Election will not give the option to register a vote of 'no confidence'. This has never been an option in a New Zealand general election or by-election.

If a voter is issued a ballot paper, any party votes that do not clearly indicate the party for which the voter desired to vote and any electorate votes that do not clearly indicate the candidate for whom the voter desired to vote, are recorded as informal.

A party or electorate vote could be informal either because of a deliberate act (for example, the voter leaving the ballot paper blank, or crossing through all the options) or due to inadvertence.

Section 179 of the Electoral Act sets out how the official results are to be reported.

The Electoral Commission must declare the total number of:

- valid votes received by each of the parties listed on the party vote part of the ballot paper
- valid votes received by each constituency candidate
- informal party votes
- informal electorate votes.

Detailed Official Results for the 2020 General Election are available [here](#), including the candidate and party informal votes by electorate.

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