

12/07/22

By email to: [REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT REQUEST 2022/23

On 5 July 2022 you made a request under the Official Information Act 1982 (the OIA) for the following information:

I am interested in how the constituencies (e.g. general electorates and local government wards) of prisoners are determined when a prisoner enrolls on the electoral roll or updates their details while in prison.

Specifically, I would like to know:

- If an eligible prisoner enrolls to vote for the first time while in prison, what location or address is used to determine the general electorate or local government ward they belong to?*
- Are prisoners prompted by Electoral Commission communication to update their electoral enrolment details in the lead up to a local or general election?*

In response to your first question, any newly enrolled elector must register using the last address at which they lived for more than a month. For a prisoner, this will be an address prior to imprisonment as the prison address cannot be used as the elector's address.

In response to your second question, the Electoral Commission contacts all enrolled electors by mail as part of our Enrolment Update Campaign before each election. In addition, the Electoral Act 1993 provides that Corrections' staff must facilitate and advise about prisoners' right to enrol. This happens either when received into prison, or if the sentence is for three years or more then this happens at the end of the sentence.

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