

28 November 2019

By email to: fyi-request-11575-9ae6b840@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Beth

OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT REQUEST 2019/026

Thank you for your request of 1 November 2019 under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) regarding data-matching. Specifically, you have asked:

- 1. How is data-matching completed in regard to process from start to finish? – Is this an automatic process or does it require a person to identify a potentially ineligible voter?*
- 2. Do Electoral Commission staff have access to the Immigration system to identify potential voter issues? – If so, what is the level of access*
- 3. For the period of November 2009 – present, could you please provide how many people for each electorate were identified as being an ineligible voter and in which year they were identified.*
- 4. What is the average time of identifying an ineligible voter from their first registration as a voter to being struck off?*

Question 1: Data matching process

Section 263A of the Act provides for immigration datamatching to identify anyone who has enrolled or applied to enrol but is not qualified to enrol and vote because they are:

- in New Zealand unlawfully; or
- in New Zealand lawfully but only by virtue of being the holder of a temporary permit.

The datamatching process including the details that can be provided is set out in full in [section 263A](#) of the Electoral Act 1993.

Immigration New Zealand (INZ) sends the Electoral Commission a daily file via an on-line transfer system of all people known to be in New Zealand on the basis of limited duration residence permits or visas, or who are believed to be overstayers. The file contains the names (including aliases), date of birth, address, and permit expiry date. The Commission matches enrolment applications as they are received against this information.

When a potential match is identified, a challenge process is initiated. The challenge process consists of written correspondence in which the person is asked to provide evidence that they are eligible to be on the electoral roll and outlines the eligibility requirements. If they are unable to provide this evidence, their name must be removed from the roll.

Question 2: Access to Immigration system

It is an automated process, where data is provided to the Commission. The Commission does not have access into immigration systems.

Question 3: Numbers of people identified as ineligible from November 2009

Below is a table which shows the numbers of individuals identified as ineligible by year, from 2009.

Year	No. of Electors
2009	734
2010	581
2011	1562
2012	404
2013	712
2014	923
2015	1140
2016	857
2017	635
2018	1100
2019	526
TOTAL	9174

You have asked for this to be provided for each electorate. We do not hold information about the number of electors removed from the roll broken down by electorate. Your request is therefore partly declined under section 18(f) on the basis that the information requested cannot be made available without substantial collation or research.

You have the right under section 28(3) of the Act to complain to the Ombudsman if you are not satisfied with the response to your request.

Kind regards



Kristina Temel
Manager Legal and Policy