

6 April 2023

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Tēnā koe Brendan

### Official Information Act (OIA) request: Source of address data used for the census

On 10 March 2023, you contacted Stats NZ requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), the following information:

*“I am curious about the source of the address data used to both distribute the census letters and also check when people request a code for their address”*

Stats NZ has a central reference list of addresses throughout the country called the Statistical Location Register, which is the main source of address information used for the 2023 Census.

The Statistical Location Register was developed in readiness for the 2018 Census and is constantly updated with data from Land Information New Zealand (LINZ), NZ Post, and data captured via numerous Stats NZ surveys. Stats NZ sources address information from LINZ, who holds New Zealand’s official addresses as allocated by territorial authorities, and information from NZ Post’s National Postal Address Database, which is used to update gaps or missing data.

In addition to being used for the Operation Address File for the 2023 Census, the Statistical Location Register is also a core Stats NZ asset with data being used across other Stats NZ surveys. For more information on the process Stats NZ followed to develop a list of all private and non-private dwellings in New Zealand for the 2018 Census, see: <https://www.stats.govt.nz/methods/creating-the-census-dwelling-frame-for-the-2018-census>

In the event where an individual uses the ‘request an access code’ function on the 2023 Census online form, there is a static list of addresses from the above sources that was loaded at the beginning of the 2023 census operation. If an address is not on the static list, the individual can contact Stats NZ online or call **0800 CENSUS** and we can manually create their address in the system.

All new address information received, whether from someone contacting census, or a census field staff carrying out field canvassing, is passed on to our office-based address verification team whose job is to assess the quality of the information. This team of

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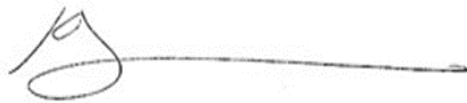
address verification analysts use data from the aforementioned sources (LINZ, NZ Post and other surveys), and public record data, to complete their checks to ensure the information is genuine and meet the standards for use. The result of their work is also checked before the new address information is sent to the Statistical Location Register. This information is not added to the static list of addresses during census operation but can be used to guide some census field visits and mailing reminders.

Should you wish to discuss this response with us, please feel free to contact Stats NZ at: [OfficeoftheGSCE@stats.govt.nz](mailto:OfficeoftheGSCE@stats.govt.nz).

If you are not satisfied with this response, you can contact us via the email address above and/or you have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman. Information about how to make a complaint is available at [www.ombudsman.parliament.nz](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz) or 0800 802 602.

It is Stats NZ's policy to proactively release its responses to official information requests where possible. This letter, with your personal details removed, will be published on the Stats NZ website. Publishing responses creates greater openness and transparency of government decision-making and helps better inform public understanding of the reasons for decisions.

Ngā mihi nui, nā



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