

12 December 2023

T Scrimgeour
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Tēnā koe T Scrimgeour

Official Information Act (OIA) request: Duplicate 2023 census responses, and incentives

On Monday, 27 November 2023, you made the following request under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

I would like to know the number of duplicate responses to the 2023 census, that is, forms filled out multiple times by the same person.

I would also like to see any documentation relating to correlating duplicate census forms, with incentives to complete the census.

I will answer each part of your question, in turn.

1. I would like to know the number of duplicate responses to the 2023 census, that is, forms filled out multiple times by the same person.

Stats NZ is currently processing and analysing 2023 Census data in preparation for releasing counts of the population in May 2024. Duplicate responses, where forms have been filled out multiple times by the same person, are an expected outcome of a large-scale collection operation and therefore there are several processes used to identify instances of duplicate responses. While some of these processes have been completed, others are still in progress, so we are not able to confirm the number of duplicate responses in the 2023 Census.

As such, this aspect of your request is refused under 18(e) of the Act as the information does not exist.

2. I would also like to see any documentation relating to correlating duplicate census forms, with incentives to complete the census.

I can confirm that Stats NZ does not hold any documentation relating to correlating duplicate census forms with incentives to complete the census. Therefore, this part of your request is also refused under 18(e) of the Act as the information does not exist.

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

If you are not satisfied with this response, please do not hesitate to contact us 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 or 0800 802 602.

It is Stats NZ's policy to proactively release our 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.

Nāku noa, nā



Mike Webb

Senior Manager – Executive & Government Relations | Office of the Chief Executive

Stats NZ Tatauranga Aotearoa

stats.govt.nz