

21 August 2025

Nigel Millar

By email to: [fyi-request-31828-f27164d0@requests.fyi.org.nz](mailto:fyi-request-31828-f27164d0@requests.fyi.org.nz)

Kia ora Nigel

### **OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT REQUEST 2025/43**

On Thursday, 31 August 2025 you made a request under the Official Information Act 1982 (the OIA) for the following information:

*Under the Official Information Act 1982, I request electronic data on special votes cast in the 2023 New Zealand General Election.*

*Please provide, for each electorate:*

*The number of special votes allowed, broken down by reasons such as:*

*Voting outside enrolled electorate (NZ),*

*Overseas voting,*

*Late enrolment,*

*Hospitalised/infirm voters,*

*Prisoners on remand,*

*Other hardship or exceptional circumstances (per Section 61 of the Electoral Act 1993).*

*The number of special votes disallowed, broken down by reasons for disallowance.*

*Please provide this information in a machine-readable format (CSV or Excel).*

We have attached a spreadsheet to this response containing the counts of special votes for the 2023 general election. Please refer to the 'About this data' tab in the spreadsheet for information on how the statistics have been compiled.

This spreadsheet contains the following data:

- *Voting outside enrolled electorate (NZ)* - The Outside Electorate tab of the spreadsheet includes Special Votes cast outside the elector's home electorate in a voting place where ordinary votes for that electorate (shared electorates) were not available. Electors counted in this data may have secondary reasons for casting a special vote, such as being on the unpublished roll, voting from a prison, hospital or aged care facility not in their home electorate, or enrolling after writ day.
- *Overseas voting* – The Party SV – Overseas data includes the breakdown of special votes in the 2023 general election by special votes cast in Aotearoa New Zealand and those cast from Overseas voters. This information can also be found at [https://www.electionresults.govt.nz/electionresults\\_2023/statistics/party-sdv-by-electorate.html](https://www.electionresults.govt.nz/electionresults_2023/statistics/party-sdv-by-electorate.html)

- *Late enrolment* - As the Electoral Commission does not hold data connecting particular votes to an electors' enrolment form, we are unable to provide data on electors who have enrolled after writ day and cast a special vote. However, we have included statistics on enrolments made after writ day. Electors who are enrolling for the first time and electors who are re-enrolling after not being on the main roll will have cast a special vote if they chose to vote. Not all electors who updated their details will have cast a special vote as some updates will not have impacted their voting rights.
- *Hospitalised/infirm voters* - The hospital and aged care teams' data contains the number of special votes by electorate the elector is registered within gathered by teams who visited hospitals or aged care facilities. In a few cases, these teams may have visited other locations such as health centres and these votes are included in these counts, as they cannot be separated out. Electors in hospitals or aged care facilities may also have other reasons for casting a special vote, such as enrolling after writ day.
- *Prisoners on remand* - The prison teams data contains the number of special votes by electorate the elector is registered within. This covers all eligible prisoner not just prisoners on remand. Incarcerated electors or electors on remand may also have other reasons for casting a special vote, such as enrolling after writ day.
- *Other hardship or exceptional circumstances (per Section 61 of the Electoral Act 1993)* - The Electoral Commission does not hold data on votes that specifically track hardship or exceptional circumstances. Other than the mobile teams for prisons, hospitals and aged care facilities, dictation, remote, and takeaway voting services are offered for those electors who may not be able to make it to a voting place. Data for these three services, broken down by electorate, are included in the datafile.
- *The number of special votes disallowed, broken down by reasons for disallowance* - The SV Allowed and disallowed data includes counts of allowed and disallowed special votes by electorate. This data includes the reason for being disallowed. This information can also be found at [https://www.electionresults.govt.nz/electionresults\\_2023/statistics/sdv-disallowed.html](https://www.electionresults.govt.nz/electionresults_2023/statistics/sdv-disallowed.html).

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](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz) or by phoning 0800 802 602.

Yours sincerely



Beth Kreitzer

Principal Advisor Data and Insights