


OIR: 2324/972

8 July 2024



Tēnā koe ,

**Request for Information under the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 (the Act) (the LGOIMA)**

Thank you for your email of **19 June 2024** requesting the following information:

- 1. The presentation to council on 21 May 2024 showed the estimated effect of moving the boundaries on the General Electoral Population of the Waikanae, Otaki , and Paraparaumu Wards the effect on the General Roll population Given that split between the General Electoral Population and Maori Electoral Population based on the 2018 census updated to 2023 is not available for mesh blocks could you please explain how the analysis displayed to the Council has been calculated? (I note that proposals for ward boundaries are required to be based on mesh block boundaries.)***

Statistics New Zealand have advised that the General Electoral Population (and Māori Electoral Population) is not available to councils at a meshblock level and have provided data supply guidelines ([Statistics New Zealand: Representation Review Data Supply Guidelines](#) – in particular page 9) for councils to follow to request and share data and information while undertaking a representation review. For the purpose of requesting the General Electoral Population of the proposed general wards and obtain confirmation that the required fair representation criteria have been met (the +/- 10% rule), councils are required to provide the meshblock details of the proposed general wards to Statistics New Zealand who calculate the relevant fair representation quota for each proposed ward and provide councils with the data set in table format. The data set provided in the presentation to the Council on 21 May 2024 was requested following this process.

*Please note that any information provided in response to your request may be published on the Council website, with your personal details removed.*

- 2. I believe that the total electoral population data based on the 2018 census must have been available for the 2022 Representation Review for all mesh blocks since the discussion in that review must have been based on that data. I therefore request the data available for and used in the 2022 review for the mesh blocks between Te Horo Road and the Otaki river that are west of the Expressway.**

To answer this question, it has been assumed that the requestor is referring to the representation review undertaken by the Council in 2021 which concluded with the determination of the Local Government Commission in April 2022.

The population data used for the 2021 representation review at meshblock level was not publicly available. For the purposes of supporting the representation review, Statistics New Zealand provided the Council with a data sheet containing the population data at a meshblock level. The data sheet was supplied to councils with a clear direction that it only be used for the purposes of the representation review and not be further shared beyond the person that had been provided access. The data sheet contained rounded population data (rounded to the nearest 10) rather than exact figures. We have consulted with Statistics New Zealand on the release of the data who have confirmed that the data set does not contain official statistics, and that it was provided to the Council for the above purpose. We therefore recommend that you contact them directly via [info@stats.govt.nz](mailto:info@stats.govt.nz) to request detailed meshblock data.

- 3. If the total electoral population data for mesh blocks based on the 2018 census but updated to 2023 is available, I also request that data for the mesh blocks between Te Horo Road and the Otaki river that are west of the Expressway.**

The population data for the 2024 representation review at meshblock level is also not publicly available. Statistics New Zealand provided the data sheet containing the population data at meshblock level to the Council's technical service provider Election Services for the purpose of supporting councils that are conducting representation reviews this year. The data sheet also contains rounded population data (rounded to the nearest 10) rather than exact figures. We have consulted with Statistics New Zealand on the release of the data who have confirmed that the data set does not contain official statistics, and that it was provided to the Council for the above purpose. We therefore recommend you contact them directly via [info@stats.govt.nz](mailto:info@stats.govt.nz) to request detailed meshblock data.

For that reason, we are withholding the requested information for questions 2 and 3 under section 7(2)(c)(i) of the LGOIMA which allows for the Council to protect information which is the subject to an obligation of confidence or which any person has been or could be compelled to provide under the authority of any enactment, where the making available of the information would be likely to prejudice the supply of similar information, or information from the same source, and it is in the public interest that such information should continue to be supplied. The information requested is considered confidential information that if released may inhibit the flow of such information in the future which would impact councils' ability to conduct representation reviews.

In Council's view the reasons for withholding these details are not outweighed by public interest considerations in section 7(1) favouring their release.

You have the right to request the Ombudsman to review this decision. Complaints can be sent by email to [info@ombudsman.parliament.nz](mailto:info@ombudsman.parliament.nz), or by post to The Ombudsman, PO Box 10152, Wellington 6143.

Ngā mihi,



**Mark de Haast**  
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Te Kaihautū Ratonga Tōpū