



16 July 2020

Reuben Tilley

By email to: fyi-request-13226-66125fec@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Mr Tilley

OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT REQUEST 2020/20

On 3 July 2020 you made a request under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA) to the Department of Internal Affairs, which detailed that:

“Becoming an MP requires the acquisition of New Zealand citizenship...”

You also requested:

...information for the candidates running in the forthcoming election this year if possible.”

On 10 July the Department of Internal Affairs transferred, under section 14(b)(ii) of the OIA, to the Electoral Commission the aspects of your request which relate to eligibility of elected officials to stand for office under the Electoral Act 1993. This is because those parts of your request are most closely connected with the functions of the Commission.

To stand in an election, candidates must be both:

- enrolled to vote, and
- a New Zealand citizen.

If a prospective candidate was born overseas, they are required to provide evidence of New Zealand citizenship with their nomination to the Electoral Commission, for example by including a copy of their New Zealand passport. Alternatively, if a candidate is unable to provide evidence of citizenship, they would need to consent to the release of their citizenship status information from the Department of Internal Affairs to the Electoral Commission for verification.

With respect to candidate information for the 2020 General Election, the Commission publishes a full list of candidates following the nomination period on our elections.nz website. For the upcoming election, the deadline for electorate candidate individual nominations is noon on 21 August 2020.

I trust this answers your questions. 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.

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K. Temel', written in a cursive style.

Kristina Temel
Manager, Legal and Policy