

15 December 2020

Cole Lions

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Dear Cole

OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT REQUEST 2020/55

Thank you for your request of 16 November 2020 under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act). Specifically, you have asked:

Could you please tell me if there was any computer tabulation software used by polling stations to record and submit vote totals in the 2020 general election?

If so:

- 1. What is the name of and who produces the software used?*
- 2. Did the computers running the software have internet access either prior to or during vote counting and tabulation?*
- 3. Could you please also inform me of what steps are taken to ensure that manually entered totals cannot be manipulated by remote access or through installed software and/or hardware?*

No computer tabulation software is used at Voting Places. All voting papers in New Zealand, both parliamentary and referendum, are counted manually. Designated personnel at electorate headquarters enter count totals into a system called the Election Management System.

This system is developed in conjunction with the New Zealand based company CATALYST.NET LIMITED, NZ Company Number 952897

Computers at electorate headquarters have access to the internet. All computers are securely networked with antivirus protection software and relevant controls in place.

Our systems undergo certification and accreditation in line with NZ government guidance, this includes penetration testing of systems to ensure that data cannot be tampered with or manipulated. Access to systems is restricted. We adhere to best practice and industry standards to protect our computer network infrastructure.

Yours sincerely



James Willcocks
Chief Information Officer
Electoral Commission