

31 October 2014

Nigel McNie

By e-mail to: fyi-request-2066-283fda64@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Mr McNie

OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT REQUEST

I refer to your request of 2 October 2014 under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) requesting the following:

1. Have the electoral commission ever produced or commissioned a study, report, review, security assessment, audit, or similar inquiry into the integrity/security of the voting system used for national elections in New Zealand? If so, could the most recent of these be provided to me?
2. Has the electoral commission ever produced or commissioned, and/or is the commission aware of, any study, report, review, security assessment, audit or similar inquiry comparing the integrity/security of the voting system used for national elections in New Zealand to any other voting system? If so, could the most recent of these be provided to me?
3. Has the electoral commission ever produced or commissioned a study, report or similar inquiry regarding implementing "online voting" for New Zealand Local Body or National elections - where for the purposes of this enquiry, "online voting" means any system on which some or all voters had the option of providing their vote over the internet. If so, could the most recent of these be provided to me?

Answers to your questions are as follows:

1. The electoral commission has not produced or commissioned a study, report, review, security assessment, audit, or similar inquiry into the integrity/security of the voting system used for national elections in New Zealand. Parliamentary elections are conducted in New Zealand largely using manual systems. Voting papers cast at an election are physically counted using a manual process that is able to be observed by Justices of the Peace and scrutineers appointed by political parties and candidates. All votes counted on election night are counted again during the official count that takes place in the two weeks after election day. The official election results can also be the subject of a judicial recount. The Electoral Commission takes information security and privacy very seriously. The Commission conducts regular risks assessments of its IT systems and has security assurance processes in place to verify that the security controls in place for its IT systems meet all appropriate government and industry standards. For reasons of security we don't make these reports publicly available.
2. The electoral commission has not ever produced or commissioned, and is not aware of, any study, report, review, security assessment, audit or similar inquiry comparing the

integrity/security of the voting system used for national elections in New Zealand to any other voting system?

3. The electoral commission has not produced or commissioned a study, report or similar inquiry regarding implementing "online voting" for New Zealand Local Body or National elections. However, in 2007, the former Chief Electoral Office produced a draft long term strategy on e-voting in New Zealand outlining possible options for piloting electronic voting for general elections and referenda. A copy of the draft strategy is attached.

You have the right under section 28(3) of the Act to complain to the Ombudsman if you are not satisfied with the response to your request.

Yours sincerely

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

Kristina Temel
Electoral Commission