



15 September 2017

C88736

Ti Lamusse
People Against Prisons Aotearoa
fyi-request-6424-03e84d33@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Ti

Thank you for your email of 2 September 2017, requesting information about prisoners voting in the 2017 General Election. Your request has been considered under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA).

As stated in the Department's response dated 30 August 2017, all policy in regards to prisoner voting is publicly available on the Department's website. I refer you to section F.03.03 Prisoner voting, which states:

- 1. The prison director will provide suitable facilities to local returning officers and scrutineers to enable them to carry out their functions.*
- 2. The prison director must ensure that all prisoners who are eligible to vote are given the opportunity to vote.*
- 3. Prisoners who are eligible to vote and are undergoing the penalty of postponement of privileges or cell confinement must be given the opportunity to vote.*

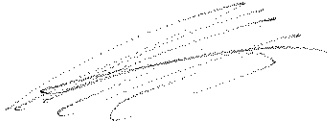
When a General Election is held, the Electoral Commission contacts the Department and advises when Local Returning Officers will be at each prison to carry out their functions of voting. It is the Electoral Commission who decides when Local Returning Officers are available at Prisons, not the Department. For the 2017 General Election, Local Returning Officers will attend all prisons prior to 23 September 2017.

As you are aware prisoners do not have the same freedom as the general population and are unable to place an early vote in the two week period prior to an election. As it is not the Department's decision whether prisoners are able to place their votes early, your request is declined under section 18(e) of the OIA as the information requested does not exist.

If you wish to enquire further on the administration of prisoner voting you may wish to contact the Electoral Commission.

I trust the information provided is of assistance. Should you have any concerns with this response, I would encourage you to raise these with the Department. Alternatively you are advised of your right to also raise any concerns with the Office of the Ombudsman. Contact details are: Office of the Ombudsman, PO Box 10152, Wellington 6143.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Richard Waggott', with several overlapping strokes.

Richard Waggott
Deputy Chief Executive (Acting)
Corporate Services