

2 August 2018

R Gavey

By email: fyi-request-8224-a7c7fb3f@requests.fyi.org.nz

Tēnā koe R Gavey

### **OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT REQUEST 2018/13**

Thank you for your request under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) of 4 July 2018, regarding the number of prisoners who have been disqualified from voting by section 80(1)(d) of the Electoral Act 1993.

The Electoral Commission's records only cover those persons who had previously been enrolled at some point and for whom we have an enrolment record against which to record the section 81 notification. Our records cannot include those persons who were disqualified from enrolment due to imprisonment but who have never been enrolled.

Responses to each of your questions are outlined below:

#### **1. The number of section 81 notifications issued by prison managers to remove prisoners from the electoral roll from 2015-2018**

The Electoral Commission's records show that a total of 5576 section 81 notifications were received from the Department of Corrections in 2015. Since 2015, the Commission has not collated information on the number of notifications received and do not hold this information for 2016, 2017 and 2018. Information on the number of persons found on the roll following a notification and removed as a result of a section 81 notice is provided under question 3.

#### **2. The number of sentenced prisoners without a current enrolment record**

Based on the number of notifications received and the number of persons removed from the roll in 2015, up to 1628 sentenced prisoners did not have a current enrolment record. For the reasons outlined in 1 above, the Commission is not currently able to provide information on the number of sentenced prisoners without a current enrolment record for 2016-2018.

#### **3. The number of sentenced prisoners removed from the electoral roll from 2015-2018**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Number of persons removed from the roll as a result of a section 81 notice</b>
<b>2015</b>	3948
<b>2016</b>	3441
<b>2017</b>	2970
<b>2018</b> (to 27 July 2018)	1458

#### 4. The number of sentenced prisoners removed from the roll of Māori descent from 2015-2018

The following table sets out the number of persons who had identified themselves as being of Māori descent on their most recent electoral registration or notification of change of address, who were enrolled at the time and were consequently removed from an electoral roll as a result of a notice given under section 81 of the Electoral Act for each calendar year.

Year	Number of persons removed from the roll as a result of a section 81 notice who identified themselves as being of Māori descent
2015	2272
2016	2048
2017	1827
2018 (to 27 July 2018)	903

#### 5. The percentage of Māori prisoners who were removed from the electoral roll from 2004-2010

Year	Number of persons removed from the roll as a result of a section 81 notice	Number of persons removed from the roll who identified themselves as being of Māori descent	Percentage of persons removed from the roll who identified themselves as being of Māori descent
2004	302	112	37.09%
2005	260	146	56.15%
2006	728	205	28.16%
2007	1101	204	18.53%
2008	881	250	28.38%
2009	908	240	26.43%
2010	945	215	22.75%

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

Ngā mihi



Kristina Temel  
Manager Legal and Policy