

21 June 2010



Simon Power
Minister of Justice
Private Bag 18041
Parliament Buildings
WELLINGTON 6160

Dear Minister

Final Government response to the Justice and Electoral Committee inquiry into the 2008 General Election

In your response to the inquiry into the 2008 general election you are proposing a new information match between DIA (Passports) and the Electoral Enrolment Centre (EEC) to identify people who are entitled to vote but are not enrolled, and also enrolled voters who have changed address.

The Privacy Commissioner is required (by section 13(1)f of the Privacy Act 1993) to examine proposed legislation that provides for an information matching programme. We are satisfied that this programme can be operated in a manner that meets the criteria required in the Privacy Act.

The EEC already operates four other matches for these purposes. Under these matches the EEC obtains the citizenship register, driver licence register, motor vehicle register, beneficiary records and MSD student records. These matches supplement the EEC's other approaches to obtaining this information, such as advertising campaigns and change of address information received from NZ Post.

We are satisfied that, although it will not result in any monetary savings, the proposed match will be a useful addition to the EEC's existing matches and result in more people being on the electoral roll.

We will comment further, if necessary, when the draft legislation is available for review.

If you would like any further information from us on this matching programme please contact Rosie Byford, Team Leader (Policy and Technology) on 04 494 7082.

Yours sincerely



Katrine Evans
Assistant Privacy Commissioner

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