

3 October 2023

Written Reply to Parliamentary Question on The Number of Postal Ballots from Overseas Voters Received after the Deadline of 11 September 2023.

Question:

Ms He Ting Ru: To ask the Prime Minister (a) how many postal ballots from overseas voters have been received after the deadline of 11 September 2023; (b) how many late arriving ballots have been postmarked before 1 September 2023; and (c) whether the ELD will consider having ballots delivered to appropriate embassies and consulates before being couriered back to Singapore for counting to reduce delivery time variances.

Written Reply by Mr Chan Chun Sing, Minister of Education, for the Prime Minister:

1 For Presidential Election 2023, overseas postal voters were able to download the postal ballot papers from 23 August 2023. For a voter's ballot paper to be accepted for counting, the return envelope containing the ballot paper should be postmarked on or before 31 August 2023 and reach the Returning Officer (RO) in Singapore no later than 11 September 2023, the 10th day after Polling Day in Singapore. There were 3,432 registered overseas postal voters. ELD received 2,263 return envelopes as at the deadline of 11 September 2023.

2 As at 18 September 2023 (i.e. 7 days after the deadline of 11 September 2023), an additional 267 return envelopes were received, of which, 83 were postmarked before 1 September 2023.

3 ELD will study the Member's suggestion for the postal votes to be delivered to Singapore embassies or consulates and then couriered back to Singapore. However, this method will still be subject to the vagaries of postal delivery times in the respective countries, as well as the problem of faint, illegible or missing postmarks.

4 This is why, in our various outreach to postal voters, we have encouraged them to mail their return envelopes early and directly back to Singapore so that the return envelopes have the best chance of reaching Singapore by the deadline to be accepted for counting.