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27 January 2020

Richard Clark

By email: fyi-request-11631-bb21b44c@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Richard

Information Request – Licensing of the NZ localities dataset

I refer to your official information request dated 11 November 2019 relating to the NZ localities Dataset (the 'Localities Dataset'), which is maintained by Fire and Emergency New Zealand. In your request, you asked: *Please supply any correspondence or documents related to providing NZ Localities on the public website, or making the dataset available pursuant to a Creative Commons licence produced since 1 May 2018.*

As noted in my letter dated 9 December 2019, the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA) requires that we advise you of our decision on your request as soon as practicable and no later than 20 working days after the day we received your request. My letter notified you that this timeframe was extended to 28 January 2020 because your request necessitated a search through a large quantity of information and advising you of our decision within 20 working days would have unreasonably interfered with Fire and Emergency's operations.

We have made reasonable efforts to locate the information that you requested and have set out that information in **Schedule 1** to this letter. In accordance with section 16 of the OIA, this information is provided in summary form because the large quantity of documentation would otherwise impair the efficient administration of Fire and Emergency.

As it may assist you to read this information in association with the information provided to you on 23 May 2018, a copy of that information is enclosed.

We would be happy to answer any further question you may have. If you would like a copy of the current version of the Localities Dataset, please contact dsi-support@fireandemergency.nz or phone 04-496 3600. Additionally, if you would like information relating to the work that Land Information New Zealand and the New Zealand Geographic Board are undertaking in respect of New Zealand suburb and locality information, you may wish to contact them directly.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this decision. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or freephone 0800 802 602.

Note also that this response (with your personal details removed) may be published on the Fire and Emergency website.

Yours sincerely



Raewyn Bleakley
Deputy Chief Executive, Office of the Chief Executive

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Schedule 1. Summary of official information held by Fire and Emergency relating to providing NZ Localities on the public website, or making the dataset available pursuant to a Creative Commons licence produced since 1 May 2018

1. In 2018, Fire and Emergency began developing a draft 'FAQ' content to provide a public explanation of the background, purpose, and operational use of the NZ Localities Dataset on its public website.
2. During that year, Fire and Emergency also considered the technical feasibility of publishing the Localities Dataset via its public facing website while mitigating the Public Risk that inappropriate use of the Localities Dataset could give rise to. (The Public Risk is described in detail in Fire and Emergency's letter of 23 May 2018, which is **attached** for ease of reference).
3. From September 2018, Fire and Emergency has been part of the *Key Datasets for Resilience and Climate Change* workstream led by Land Information New Zealand (**LINZ**). We understand LINZ is working with the owners of twelve priority datasets (including the Localities Dataset) to ensure the data is accessible and available to support emergency management. More information about the *Datasets for Resilience and Climate Change* can be found at <https://www.linz.govt.nz/data/linz-data/resilience-and-climate-change/key-datasets-for-resilience-and-climate-change>.
4. Fire and Emergency received legal advice on the potential to publish the Localities Dataset in accordance with the Creative Commons licencing framework and the nature of measures available to mitigate the Public Risk in that context.
5. In November 2019 Fire and Emergency obtained advice from LINZ regarding the suitability of Creative Commons license variants appropriate for the NZ Localities Dataset. Fire and Emergency also obtained advice from the New Zealand Geographic Board (**NZGB**) that they do not oppose NZ Localities being released as an open dataset. More information about the Open Data Group can be found at: <https://www.stats.govt.nz/about-us/data-leadership#open>. More information about the New Zealand Geographic Board's role in suburb and locality information can be found at: <https://www.linz.govt.nz/regulatory/place-names/about-new-zealand-geographic-board>.
6. Fire and Emergency considered the resourcing and prioritisation of work required to implement changes to the management, licencing, and provision of the Dataset identified to LINZ by stakeholders surveyed. It was concluded that Fire and Emergency did not have the resource available to prioritise the required actions at that point in time.
7. In late 2019, LINZ and the NZGB sought Fire and Emergency's input into developing a 'single point of truth' for suburbs and localities in New Zealand that will be publicly available. Fire and Emergency intends to provide LINZ and the NZGB with requested input into the discussions, and appraise the agencies of the nature of the Localities Dataset, the use of the Dataset, and the need to ensure that any Public Risk in this space can be mitigated in order to ensure the safety of the New Zealand public in the context of emergency response services.