

13 August 2020

Our Reference: IR-01-20-16521

Alan Thompson  
fyi-request-13101-59c096c6@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Alan

I am writing in response to the email you submitted 16 June 2020. Your request has been considered pursuant to the Official Information Act 1982. Specifically you requested:

*Dear New Zealand Police*

*In your response to a previous OIA Request (your reference IR-01- 20-8787) NZ Police confirmed that you were not the Lead Agency for the White Island/Whakaari response and that NEMA was Lead. Under OIA Request, NEMA subsequently advised that they were not the Lead but that the Bay of Plenty Emergency Management Group were Lead Agency.*

*You will appreciate that as the major agency involved in the response it is a little surprising that NZ Police did not know who was the Lead Agency and who then was coordinating your supporting role in the response.*

*This is compounded by the EBOPEMG daily Incident Action Plans where it is various recorded that: - it was a "joint response" with NZ Police (IAP 01 and all subsequent IAPs)) - it was a "joint operation" with NZ Police (IAP 01) - EBOPEMG's EOC was "supporting" NZ Police as necessary (IAP 01) - Police were undertaking an independent response (IAP 01) - Police were the Lead Agency for rescue and reconciliation functions (IAP 01) - Police are coordinating recovery and reconciliation (IAP 02) - The EBOPEMG EOC's Mission was to "provide appropriate welfare related support function" (IAP 03) - it was the Objective of the EOC to "Support the NZ Police" (IAP 03).*

*Nowhere in the IAP is records (i.e. Mission, Objectives, Intent, etc.) from EBOPEMG there any reference to any role that they had as the Lead Agency to coordinate NZ Police in the "search, rescue and recovery phase of the Whakaari/White Island operation "as per your advice of the 13th May.*

*In this regard the NZ Coordinated Incident Management System is quite specific with respect to the role of the Lead Agency, the appointed Incident Controller and the process for planning, documenting and issuing Mission, Objectives, Structure, Roles, Tasks, etc.*

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## **Police National Headquarters**

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Telephone: 04 474 9499. Fax: 04 498 7400. [www.police.govt.nz](http://www.police.govt.nz)

To assist to clarify your advice that NZ Police were tasked to facilitate the search, rescue and recovery phase of the Whakaari/White Island operation I request (under the provisions of the Official Information Act) the following covering the first 5 days of the response:

1. The IAPs as issued to NZ Police by the Lead Agency that set out the Mission, Objectives, Structure, Roles, Tactics, Tasks, Resources, Communications Plan, Medical Plan, Safety Plan, etc. for all parties (including NZ Police).

2. If not included in the above, the tasking or other documentation specifically issued to NZ Police (as a supporting agency) by BOPEMG (as Lead Agency) assigned your task(s) as a supporting agency to search, rescue and recover victims of the Whakaari/White Island incident (refer NZ CIMS Framework).

I have reviewed 376 computerised records in relation to your request, and have been unable to locate any IAP's issued to NZ Police. Therefore your request is refused pursuant to s 18(e) of the Official Information Act 1982, in that the document alleged to contain the information requested does not exist.

With regards to your second question, your request is refused pursuant to s 18(e) of the Official Information Act 1982, in that the document alleged to contain the information requested does not exist in Police records. Any tasking or other documentation would have been created by the lead agency and subsequently relayed to Police.

I suggest that you contact the Eastern Bay of Plenty Emergency Management Group as the lead agency to request any of the documents you have outlined above.

I trust you are satisfied with my response to your request. If not, you have a right under section 28(3) of the Official Information Act 1982 to ask the Office of the Ombudsman to seek an investigation and review of my decision.

Yours sincerely



Inspector Nic Brown  
**Acting National Manager: Response & Operations**

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