



National Emergency Management Agency

Te Rākau Whakamarumarū

12 January 2021

Alan Thompson
By email: alan@thompsonfamily.nz

Reference: OIA-2020/21-0280

Dear Mr Thompson

Official Information Act request for a copy of NEMA response to the Whakaari event

Thank you for your Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) request, which was submitted to the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (DPMC) via the fyi.org.nz website on 24 November 2020. You requested:

"In early May this year NEMA advised me in an OIA response that they are undertaking a review of it own response" to the Whakaari/White Island eruption disaster. Under the provisions of the Official Information Act please provide me with a copy of this review."

The National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) is a departmental agency hosted by DPMC.

I refer to the email dated 8 January 2021 from DPMC advising that due to an Information Technology error it had not received any emails from the fyi.org.nz website from November 2020 to 8 January 2021. DPMC apologises for the delay in receiving your request.

Following an emergency management event, NEMA will review its own response to the event, which includes debriefing, capturing lessons, and identifying any corrective actions that may be necessary.

Accordingly, NEMA has carried out a review of its response to the Whakaari event, however, the report is currently in a draft form and has yet to be finalised. I have decided to withhold the draft report in full under the following sections of the Act:

- section 9(2)(f)(iv) - to maintain the constitutional conventions for the time being which protect the confidentiality of advice tendered by Ministers of the Crown and officials
- section 9(2)(g)(i) - to maintain the effective conduct of public affairs through the free and frank expression of opinions by or between or to Ministers of the Crown or members of an organisation or officers and employees of any department or organisation in the course of their duty.

In making my decision, I have taken the public interest considerations in section 9(1) of the Act into account.

You have the right to ask the Ombudsman to investigate and review my decision under section 28(3) of the Act.

We do not intend to publish this response on the National Emergency Management Agency's website.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Schwalger". The signature is written in a cursive style with a small horizontal line at the end.

Carolyn Schwalger
Chief Executive, National Emergency Management Agency