



13 August 2021

Alan Thompson
fyi-request-14756-2f2be379@requests.fyi.org.nz

Reference: OIA-2020/21-0704

Dear Alan Thompson

Official Information Act request relating to feedback on the application of the Coordinated Incident Management System: Whakaari Event

Thank you for your Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) request received on 25 June 2021. You requested:

1. *“Please confirm whether the data capture in preparing the report was as stated on Pages 6 and 13 of the report or was it as you quite differently state in this OIA response.*
2. *Please provide copies of the communication that went out to participating agencies inviting them to the meetings on 25 and 27 of February as advised in your OIA response and a list of the agencies that attended each of the debriefs; and*
3. *Please provide a copy of the communication(s) that went out to agencies in mid December 2019 requesting that they submit their reviews, debriefs and feedback from the Whakaari/White Island event to LessonNZ (as stated in the report).”*

I refer to the email dated 30 July 2021 from the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (DPMC) seeking clarification and to your response of the same date.

The time frame for responding to your request was extended under section 15A of the Act by 20 working days because it necessitated consultations to be undertaken before a decision could be made on the request. Following this extension, I am now in a position to respond. Please find below a response to each part of your request.

1. *“Please confirm whether the data capture in preparing the report was as stated on Pages 6 and 13 of the report or was it as you quite differently state in this OIA response.*

There is no inconsistency between these two positions. Both are correct.

As advised in my earlier letter dated 24 June 2021, DPMC held debrief sessions on 25 and 27 February 2020 with agencies involved in the response and recovery relating to the Whakaari event. The purpose of the debrief was, *inter alia*, to gather feedback from these agencies on the application of CIMS. The debrief provided an opportunity for officials to discuss and share learnings from the event in an atmosphere of confidence.

Additionally, some agencies provided the authors of the report with their internal “after action” reviews (or similar), which were drafted to capture lessons and observations in the immediate aftermath of the Whakaari event, which is reflected on pages 6 and 13, for the

report prepared by LessoNZ community of practice: *Whakaari/White Island Volcanic Eruption*, dated November 2020.

- Please provide copies of the communication that went out to participating agencies inviting them to the meetings on 25 and 27 of February as advised in your OIA response and a list of the agencies that attended each of the debriefs;*
- 2. Please provide a copy of the communication(s) that went out to agencies in mid December 2019 requesting that they submit their reviews, debriefs and feedback from the Whakaari/White Island event to LessonNZ (as stated in the report)."*

Documents within scope of these parts of your request are two emails from DPMC to agencies inviting them to participate in a debrief session dated 27 January 2020 and 17 February 2020. Some information is withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the Act to protect the privacy of individuals. Information out of scope of your request has been removed.

The email dated 27 January 2020 advised that at a meeting of the Inter-Agency Working Group held on 19 December 2019, the Chair of the Officials Committee for Domestic and External Security Coordination formally requested that agencies undertake debriefs of their operational responses once their Whakaari/White Island response activities were complete.

As advised in my earlier letter dated 24 June 2021, DPMC invited a range of agencies to attend the debrief session, including:

1. Accident Compensation Corporation
2. Crown Law Office
3. Department of Conservation
4. Department of Internal Affairs
5. Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet
6. Fire and Emergency New Zealand
7. Ministry of Health
8. Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (Immigration New Zealand)
9. Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade
10. Ministry for the Environment
11. Ministry of Justice
12. Ministry of Transport
13. Ministry for Primary Industries
14. Ministry of Social Development
15. National Emergency Management Agency
16. New Zealand Customs Service
17. New Zealand Defence Force
18. New Zealand Police
19. Public Services Commission
20. Te Puni Kōkiri
21. Tourism New Zealand
22. WorkSafe New Zealand

No formal minutes were taken, nor was there a record of the agencies that attended the debrief sessions. Therefore, we are not able to provide you with the complete list of agencies that attended the debrief sessions.

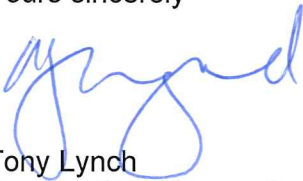
However, based on the gathered and collated feedback we can confirm that the following agencies attended, and other agencies have been present:

1. Accident Compensation Corporation
2. Department of Internal Affairs
3. Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet
4. National Emergency Management Agency
5. Fire and Emergency New Zealand
6. Ministry of Health
7. Ministry of Transport
8. Ministry for Primary Industries
9. Ministry of Social Development
10. New Zealand Defence Force
11. New Zealand Police
12. WorkSafe New Zealand

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.

Yours sincerely



Tony Lynch
Deputy Chief Executive, National Security Group

