

Office of Hon Nanaia Mahuta

MP for Hauraki-Waikato

Minister of Foreign Affairs

Minister of Local Government

Associate Minister for Māori Development



28 April 2022

Alan Thompson

fyi-request-18979-4eaaf0ba@requests.fyi.org.nz

Tēnā koe Alan

Thank you for your email of 27 March 2022 requesting the following information under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

“The Governance and Administration committee advised in their report to the House on the Petition of Alan Thompson for a formal independent Whakaari/White Island response inquiry that you have initiated a review in late 2020 of the MOU with Bay of Plenty Regional Emergency Management. This MOU was for civil defence and emergency management responsibilities to be undertaken on your behalf for Whakaari. The Labour members of the G&A committee have stated that this review addresses the matter of independently reviewing the response by the emergency services to the eruption as I set out in my petition.

Under the provisions of the Official Information Act I request:

- 1. A copy of the Terms of Reference for this review (eg the Purpose, Objectives, Scope and Deliverables, etc).*
- 2. The timetable for this review including the date it will be completed and presented to you.”*

Unfortunately, the Governance and Administration Committee noted in its final report that the review of the MoU between me and Emergency Management Bay of Plenty addressed your request for a review, when in fact it did not. The review involved a review of the MoU itself, not the response at the time of the eruption and was not supported by a Terms of Reference or a formal timetable. Therefore, your request is refused under section 18(e) of the Act, as the information does not exist.

To provide you with some context and the decisions made in relation to the MoU, I have attached some documents that have previously been released. They include correspondence with the Governance and Administration Committee, and a briefing setting out the decision to terminate the MoU with Emergency Management Bay of Plenty as a consequence of the review. Some information in this document has been withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the Act, to protect the privacy of natural persons.

You have the right, under section 28(3) of the Act, to seek an investigation and review of this decision by the Office of the Ombudsman. The postal address of the Office of the Ombudsman is PO Box 10152, Wellington. Alternatively, you can phone 0800 802 602 or email info@ombudsman.parliament.nz.

Thank you again for writing.

Naku noa,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'N. C. Mahuta', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Hon Nanaia Mahuta
Minister of Local Government