



National Headquarters
Fire and Emergency New Zealand
National Headquarters
Spark Central, Level 7
42-52 Willis Street
Wellington Central
Wellington 6011

Phone +64 4 496 3600

20 December 2022

E Bowdler
By email: fyi-request-21154-2e4f6f96@requests.fyi.org.nz

Tēnā koe E Bowdler

Information Request – Air Desk BCP Dispatchers

I refer to your official information request dated 18 November 2022 asking for information relating to several qualified Air Support Supervisors receiving training as Air Desk Dispatchers to run the Fire and Emergency New Zealand National Air Desk outside of the Southern Communications Centre.

In accordance with the provisions of the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA), I outline your questions and our responses to each, below.

1. What training have these personnel received on ARENA and the FENZ Air Desk?

Two days of training were provided for the team at National Headquarters by the National Aviation Lead and a Specialist Aviation Advisor. The training included the ARENA training module, real time dispatch events that occurred on those days, and simulations using past events.

Ongoing assistance, mentoring, and oversight was provided daily by the Air Desk Support Group.

2. How and why were these personnel selected to receive Air Desk training?

These people were selected based on several key factors. They were selected because of their existing knowledge, competency, teamwork capability, availability, and willingness to assist. They also required sign-off from their managers.

3. For those personnel who are not paid employees of FENZ (i.e. volunteers), are they paid for Air Desk duties?

Yes, personnel who are not paid employees of Fire and Emergency (i.e. volunteers), are paid for Air Desk duties. Out of the nine personnel selected, six are full time Fire and Emergency employees and three are volunteers.

4. If so, how much are they paid, how was the pay rate determined, and how is it funded?

For privacy reasons we cannot provide the actual amounts to the individuals concerned however we can offer the pay bands on which their rates are based. The remuneration pay band ranges from \$49,000 to \$62,000 per annum. Pay is pro rata on a hourly basis, plus holiday pay at 8% of earnings.

This pay rate was determined due to operating in a similar capacity to the Communication Centre dispatchers. The remuneration band range provided covers several role types.

The full time Fire and Emergency employees are being paid overtime for work outside normal work hours, but within normal work hours the time is covered by their normal business unit.

Funding has been provided by the National Response Capability budget.

5. Please provide any and all correspondence in relation to the above requests.

Please see *enclosed* correspondence in relation to this topic up to the date your request was received.

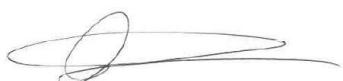
Some information has been redacted due to being out-of-scope, or under the following sections of the OIA:

- section 9(2)(a) to protect the privacy of individuals identified in the report; and
- section 9(2)(g)(i) - to maintain the effective conduct of public affairs through the free and frank expression of opinions by or between employees of any public service agency or organisation in the course of their duty

We do not consider that there is a public interest in the release of the information which outweighs withholding it.

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.

Nāku noa nā



Julia McCook-Weir
Manager, Information Requests

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