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22 February 2023

Brendan Young  
By email: [fyi-request-21626-4be8c79a@requests.fyi.org.nz](mailto:fyi-request-21626-4be8c79a@requests.fyi.org.nz)

Tēnā koe Brendan

**Information Request – Fire Statistics 2021 onwards**

I refer to your official information request dated 25 January 2023 asking for the following information on residential fires from the year 2021 onwards:

- 1. The 10 most common causes of residential fires in New Zealand*
- 2. The average number of fires per month in Auckland and Christchurch*
- 3. What age brackets have the highest rate of fatalities for residential fires*
- 4. How many properties of residential fires had working smoke alarms and of those that had smoke alarms how many were not working*
- 5. The most common cause of death for fatal fires in residential properties*

In accordance with the provisions of the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA), I enclose the information you requested, with the exception of your question for 'the most common cause of death for fatal fires in residential properties'. This is because Fire and Emergency New Zealand is not the lead agency for deciding on and reporting causes of death. Accordingly, this aspect of your request is refused under section 18(g) of the OIA, as we do not hold the information. You may be able to get this type of information from Coronial Services.

Questions 1, 2 and 4 are answered in the attached table.

In relation to question 2, you have asked for 'the average number of fires per month in Auckland and Christchurch'. We have provided the data on the total, and average count of fire incidents attended by Fire and Emergency each month, for the areas requested.

In response to question 3, we can advise that since 1 January 2021 we have recorded 20 deaths in residential structure fires. In 4 cases we have not recorded an age. 6 people were aged between 19 and 64 years, and 10 people were aged 65 or older.

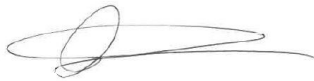
Please note that industrial action undertaken by New Zealand Professional Firefighters Union during throughout the latter half of 2022 may have limited the information gathered, and now held, by Fire and Emergency New Zealand that is relevant to your request. As a result it not be

possible to draw meaningful comparisons between the information relating to the period(s) of industrial action and other periods for which a fuller range of information may be held.

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](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz) or freephone 0800 802 602.

*Note also that this response (with your personal details removed) may be published on the Fire and Emergency website.*

Nāku noa nā



Julia McCook-Weir  
Manager, Information Requests  
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