

15 Hūrae 2024

Craig Innes  
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E te rangatira e Craig, tēnā koe

### **Copy of Collections Search Database**

Thank you for your email, received on 17 June 2024, requesting a copy of the Collections Search database under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act).

You have requested:

*“Please supply a copy of the Collections Search database in comma separated format, including the following fields:*

*‘R’ Number*

*Title,*

*Years,*

*Item ID,*

*Agency,*

*Series,*

*Accession,*

*Record group,*

*Box / Item,*

*Sep Record no.,*

*Part Alternative no.,*

*Record type and*

*Former archives ref”*

The information you have requested is publicly available at [https://collections.archives.govt.nz/en/web/arena#/,](https://collections.archives.govt.nz/en/web/arena#/) though not in the format you have requested.

*Kia pono ai te rua Mahara – Enabling trusted government information*

We sent an email to you on 21 June 2024 asking you to clarify and narrow the scope of your request to a specific group of records, as initial scoping suggests that the information could not be made available in the requested format without substantial collation and research. We advised that charging you would be unlikely to enable us to fulfil the request, that the cost of the resources required would not be reasonable to pass on to you, and that an extension would not reduce the cost or enable reasonably timely delivery of the request.

In this email, we also informed you that we were unable to easily produce the information in the format specified directly from the Collections Search database. Collections Search harvests information from the Collections Staff database. We let you know that if you narrowed your request to a specific group or groups of records, we could provide an extract of the information in the requested format from Collections Staff.

To date, we have not received a response from you.

The fields you have requested relate to the 'Archives - items' data set on Collections Staff. We have interpreted your request to only refer to the 'Archives – items' dataset, and not any other such as agency, series, disposal authority etcetera.

As required under section 18A (1)(a) and (b) of the Act, we have considered whether fixing a charge or extending the time limit of this request would enable us to provide you with the requested information. We estimate that it would take two staff working on this request full time for three weeks to export, verify, and send the data to you. The cost would not be reasonable to pass on as it would cost upwards of \$12,000 in staff resource. Extending the timeframe to respond to your request in order to spread the work over a longer period of time would be administratively burdensome and would still interfere with high priority work.

Additionally, charging you for this request would not address the impact on the ability of Te Rua Mahara to carry out our other operations. Completing this request would mean other high priority work would be paused, which would have a severe impact on our business functions, and would interfere with our ability to carry out our statutory obligations under the Public Records Act 2005.

This request is therefore refused under section 18(f) of the Act, as the information requested cannot be made available without substantial collation or research.

If you are able to specify the group or groups of records you would like to have more information on, we are able to extract that from Collections Staff and provide this to you as a business request. For example:

- A particular series of records
- A specific keyword search, which could also include the relevant time periods
- Records from a particular agency/agencies

If you would like to request this, please contact [researcharchives@dia.govt.nz](mailto:researcharchives@dia.govt.nz).

Please contact [oca@dia.govt.nz](mailto:oca@dia.govt.nz) if you have any questions about this response.

Please note that in cases where the Department's response provides information that is identified to be of public interest, the response may also be published on the Department of Internal Affairs website. If the Department publishes its response to your OIA request, all personal information, including your name and contact details, will be removed.

You have the right under section 28 of the OIA to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this decision. Information about how to make a complaint can be found at <https://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz/> or freephone 0800 802 602

Ngā mihi, nā

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'AR' followed by a stylized flourish.

**Anaheera Morehu**  
Poumanaaki Chief Archivist