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Ref: 20439

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Tēnā koe Harwood

We refer to your request of 5 January 2026 to Fire and Emergency New Zealand requesting information relating to how Fire and Emergency responds to community growth under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA). On 11 and 12 February 2026, we responded to the following aspects of your request:

1. *Staff Numbers*
2. *Budget*
4. *Call Numbers*
5. *Response Targets*
- 7c. *Do FENZ have data on the levy received from various towns? if so, how much has been received from the Rolleston Urban area?*

We also notified you of an extension to respond to the remaining aspects of your request and our response is below. Please note the questions are numbered as per your initial request.

2. *Budget*
  - a. *The FENZ Budget has increased dramatically since NZFS, explain how the levy has been spent with the best interests of the public, detail how the increased budget has been spent in comparison to NZFS, what might be best is to provide a report based pre 2017 and now with expenditure / department codes, actual meaningful categories (i.e uniforms, branding, wages, catering), not corporate jargon.*

Though a response to this aspect of your request was initially provided on 11 February 2026 you advised you were 'not satisfied that the annual report demonstrates at all how funds are spent with the "best interests of the public" at mind, you should able to indicate percentage of funds spent over years with the transition in mind.'

We have reassessed the response we initially provided and note that your follow-up query focuses on how funds are spent. Please find attached, as **Appendix One** to this response, the movement of

actual costs for financial year 2016/17 in comparison to financial year 2024/25. This splits the costs by major groupings (regions, and large directorates), and it is further broken down by corporate support, frontline and frontline enabler role types. Definitions of these role types are as follows:

- Frontline - those who directly deliver our services to the public and industry.
  - Frontline Enabler - those who directly support our frontline functions, without which they cannot immediately provide such a service.
  - Corporate Support - those who maintain our business operations, including governance, that allow the organisation to function in an efficient manner and prepare for the future.
3. *Evaluation of resources in communities*
- *Has FENZ in the past 10 years, done any evaluation of community growth, demand and FENZ resources in the following areas': Hibiscus Coast, Hamilton & Selwyn? if so please provide it.*

### **Hibiscus Coast**

The Waitemata District recognises that areas such as Whangaparaoa and the Hibiscus Coast are experiencing sustained population and development growth along with other areas within Tamaki Makaurau.

### **Selwyn**

Population growth analysis in the Selwyn District, and Rolleston in particular, was part of a business case supporting the rebuild of Rolleston Fire Station in 2022. Please find attached, as **Appendix Two** to this response, references to the growth increase (**Table A**), and historical incident data to measure demand and location frequency (**Table B**).

### **Hamilton**

Population statistics were part of the Hamilton Network and Resourcing Plan developed in June 2023; however, this work was not officially endorsed by Fire and Emergency. We provide the statistics of the report insofar as it relates to population growth in Hamilton City:

- Hamilton is the fourth most populous city in New Zealand, with an urban population of 179,900 (June 2022).
- Stats NZ projects the Hamilton City population to be: high projection (266,300), medium projection (236,000) and low projection (207,900) by 2048.
- At 2018 Census, Hamilton City had 55,068 occupied dwellings.
- The 2018 Census data shows the population of Hamilton City grew by 19,299 or 13.6% between 2013 and 2018. This was significantly higher than the nation-wide growth rate of 10.8% over the same period.
- According to the 2018 Census, 19.7% of the population is 65 years or older, higher than the national average of 15.2%.
- Ethnicity - 55.2% of the population is European, 20.6% Māori, 5.3% Pacific Island, 16% Asian and 3% other

- Approximately 50% of the growth will be provided through infill or intensification of existing areas.
- The population for Hamilton is greater than the NZ population increase on a consistent basis. The chart below provides evidence of this.

Please find attached, as **Appendix Three** to this response, a graph of the Hamilton population growth percentage against national growth between 2011 and 2021.

#### 6. Building Issues

- *Are there any current recorded issues with buildings not meeting their needs, having faults, or other concerns at the following locations? if so please explain the issues or provide documents to explain AND when work is being done to resolve this:*
  - Silverdale
  - Manly
  - Chartwell
  - Lincoln
  - Rolleston

On 30 January 2026 you clarified that you *'require information on building faults, buildings not fit for purpose and serious safety issues that effect fire fighters ability to do their job or, i.e. Air Con doesn't work on level 2, Meeting Room is too small for brigade, Water leakage or mold.'*

You agreed to refine your request to formal reports relating to the following topics:

- any currently unresolved, formally notified building or regulatory non-compliance issues
- any currently unresolved issues subject to enforcement action or statutory notices
- any currently unresolved health and safety risks recorded in official registers

Please find attached information identified relating for the following fire stations:

- Silverdale – see **Appendix Four**
- Manly – see **Appendix Five**
- Chartwell – see **Appendix Six**
- Lincoln – see **Appendix Seven**
- Rolleston – see **Appendix Eight**

While draft maintenance schedules are included in the appendices for context, they are indicative only. In practice, our facilities management approach may differ to ensure assets are managed effectively and in line with operational priorities and available resources.

Some information has been withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the OIA, to protect the privacy of natural persons. Also, some information that is embedded within our release to you is outside the of scope of your request and does not relate to the requested information. Where this has occurred, it has been labelled as out of scope.

- *7. General*
  - *7a. Has FENZ considered the volunteer reliance and workload on Silverdale, Manly, Rolleston and Lincoln? AND are their any plans to further staff these locations with career firefighters?*

Fire and Emergency has commenced work nationally looking at operational capability planning but this work is still in-progress. Therefore, we do not have a formal, standalone review specifically focused on *volunteer reliance and workload* for these four brigades. However, volunteer workload, operational demand, and station sustainability are all considered as part of ongoing District-level planning and, once launched, we anticipate will feature in the Future Operational Capability (FOC) workstreams.

For Rolleston and Lincoln, both brigades continue to manage their operational workload effectively as volunteer brigades. District operational staff provide additional support through risk reduction, administrative assistance, operational planning, and logistics to help manage growth pressures.

While Fire and Emergency has not developed plans at this stage to introduce career staffing at these locations, work is underway in Canterbury assessing the future location and configuration of Rolleston Station as part of wider service delivery planning. This work is still in early stages and does not include decisions about career resourcing.

*7b. Has FENZ considered improving resources to growth areas' such as Selwyn, Hamilton and Hibiscus Coast? Rolleston resources have remained the same for many many years, yet their population has exploded 10 fold in 20 years, what is FENZ doing to accommodate that?*

### **Hibiscus Coast**

Additional operational and risk reduction support to the Silverdale brigade is being provided by District staff to help manage administrative and operational pressures associated with growth.

### **Selwyn**

The Canterbury District recognises that areas such as Selwyn are experiencing sustained population and development growth along with other areas within Canterbury's territorial authorities (TA).

Regarding Rolleston and Lincoln, who are in the Selwyn TA, while the station configuration and volunteer resourcing have remained largely unchanged for some time, the brigades have continued to meet required service levels. Canterbury District with Fire and Emergency Property and Region Planning and Intelligence have commenced work reviewing the Rolleston Station location and future needs. Additional operational and risk reduction support to both brigades is being provided by district staff to help manage administrative and operational pressures associated with growth.

This local work will feed into, and be aligned with, the national Operational Capability programme once its tools and frameworks are fully implemented.

### **Hamilton**

With support from the Ngā Tai ki te Puku Planning and Performance team, the Waikato District Leadership team in collaboration with the New Zealand Professional Firefighters Union local and frontline leaders developed a Hamilton network resourcing plan to look at three problem statements:

- Hamilton station is an earthquake prone building and needs repair/replacement by 2034

- Resourcing (people and assets) capacity and capability does not meet Hamilton City's current and future needs. The lack of capacity is impacting on our ability to meet Fire and Emergency's organisational and legislative expectations, deliver risk reduction activities and is having a detrimental effect on the wellbeing of our people.
- Hamilton's surrounding network of volunteer brigades is bustling and is not sustainable to meet future needs.

This work will inform the Operational Capability programme.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of our decisions. Information about how to make a complaint is available at [www.ombudsman.parliament.nz](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz) or freephone 0800 802 602.

We trust that the information being provided in this response is of assistance. If you require further information, please email [officialinformationrequests@fireandemergency.nz](mailto:officialinformationrequests@fireandemergency.nz)

Please note that because of the identified public interest in the information that you have requested, we intend to publish this response (with your personal details removed) on our website.

Nāku noa, nā



Aidan Saunders  
Manager, Information Requests

