



National Headquarters
Fire and Emergency New Zealand
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18 May 2026

Ref: 21295

S Reynolds

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Tēnā koe S

We refer to your request of 26 March 2026 to Fire and Emergency New Zealand requesting information relating to the number, status and history of brigades since 2020. Your request has been considered under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA), and we copy and respond to each aspect of your request below.

- Please provide a list of all fire brigades and stations (urban volunteer, rural volunteer, composite, and career) as at 1 July 2020, including for each:*
 - Brigade/station name*
 - Station identifier or callsign*
 - Region or district*
 - Brigade type (career, composite, urban volunteer, rural volunteer) Operational status as at that date*
- Current brigade and station register*
 - Please provide the same information as at the date of this request.*

Please find attached, as **Appendix One** to this response, a spreadsheet showing all fire brigades at 1 July 2020 and at 26 March 2026.

- Status changes since 1 July 2020*
 - Please provide a record of any brigade or station that has, since 1 July 2020:*
 - Been disestablished or closed*
 - Been merged with or absorbed into another brigade or station Changed brigade type or classification Been renamed or assigned a new station identifier Been placed on reduced operational status or stood down*

- For each entry, please include the date the change took effect, the region or district, and the reason recorded for the change.

Please find attached, as **Appendix Two** to this response, the requested information broken down by region.

4. Decision-making framework

- Please provide any policy, procedure, guideline, or internal framework that governs how Fire and Emergency identifies, assesses, and implements the merger, consolidation, or closure of a brigade or station. This includes any criteria used to determine whether a brigade or station should be subject to review, and the consultation process required before a decision is made.

Decisions regarding merging, consolidating or closing a brigade or station are made by the respective Region Manager. Given the infrequency of such changes and the specific individual considerations required, there is no existing policy or procedure. Any decisions are made in consultation with the brigade, service delivery planning teams, regional personnel and the local community. For this reason, this aspect of your request is refused under section 18(e) of the OIA, as the document alleged to contain the information requested does not exist.

5. Reviews or proposals since 1 July 2020

- Please provide a list of any brigades or stations that have been subject to a formal review, proposal, or Tactical Resource Plan relating to potential merger, consolidation, or closure since 1 July 2020, regardless of whether that process resulted in a change. Please include the outcome or current status of each.

Please see the table below showing brigades subject to a review or proposal since 1 July 2020:

Brigade	Current Status
Taupo Bay Volunteer Fire Brigade	Consistently low brigade membership against establishment and reducing calls for assistance. Being reviewed for viability.
Karikari Volunteer Fire Brigade	Proposal of merger with Rangiputa Volunteer Fire Brigade.
Rangiputa Volunteer Fire Brigade	Proposal of merger with Karikari Volunteer Fire Brigade.
Te Kopuru Volunteer Brigade	Proposal to change brigade categorisation from Urban to Rural.
Okiwi Volunteer Fire Brigade	Proposal of merger with Tryphena Volunteer Fire Brigade.
Kaitoke Volunteer Fire Brigade	Proposal of merger with Tryphena Volunteer Fire Brigade.
Tryphena Volunteer Fire Brigade	Proposal of merger with Okiwi and Kaitoke Volunteer Fire Brigades.

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.

We trust that the information being provided is of assistance. If you require further information, please email 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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A. Saunders'.

Aidan Saunders
Manager, Information Requests

