



OIA16-0051

15 MAR 2016

Barry Falconer
fyi-request-3 649-aacdd4b 7@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Barry Falconer

OFFICIAL INFORMATION REQUEST

I refer to your official information request on 17 February regarding the following:

1. "Can you confirm if you supply MPI uniform to all Honorary Fisheries Officers (HFOs)? If this is so please provide a breakdown of all uniform and personal protective equipment that an Honorary Fisheries Officer are entitled to receive upon obtaining his/her warrant.
2. Please also provide a copy of any internal ordering form and the uniform guidelines and or matrix which would be HFO Coordinators would use.
3. Please also confirm what communication devices, if any, are issued to Honorary Fisheries Officers given that many of them still work on their own in remote areas around New Zealand.
4. Please also confirm what your policy is on issuing hand held radios to Honorary Fisheries officers, given that their full time counterparts are personally issued with these."

Despite your failure to confirm your eligibility to make a request, as outlined in section 12 of the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA), I have decided to fulfil your request.

The attached *Honorary Fishery Officer & Honorary Fishery Officer Coordinator Operating Standard* is released to you under the OIA. The Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) equips all HFOs with personal protective equipment, uniforms, and various methods of communication devices. As described in this document, the discretion of what equipment is used is up to the District Compliance Manager (DCM). A variety of arrangements have been made specific to the area being patrolled and the needs of the HFO to enable the ability to communicate with the Communications Centre.

There is no form for ordering HFO uniforms, and as such your request for this information is refused under 18(d) of the OIA, as the information does not exist. Uniforms are ordered online and this is usually arranged by the HFO Coordinator.

As an HFO is a volunteer in MPI and empowered with statutory powers, there is a Code of Conduct specifically for HFOs that HFOs are bound by, based on the State Services Codes of Conduct. This sets the professional standards and ethics in broad terms. If an HFO is dissatisfied, there is an established complaint procedure to follow to address any issues.

Operations

Compliance

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You have a right under section 28(3) of the OIA to see an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of our decision to refuse parts of your request.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several overlapping loops and a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Gary Orr
Acting Director Compliance