



## New Zealand Fire Service

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21 April 2016

Brent Cairns and Ralph Stone

By email: [www.fyi.org.nz](http://www.fyi.org.nz)

Dear Messrs Cairns and Stone

### Information Request – Volunteer Firefighters

This letter is a response to your information request of 21 March 2016.

In response to your questions:

#### 1. How many Volunteer Firefighters serve in brigades in New Zealand?

As at 1 March 2016 there were 8155 Urban Volunteers.

#### 2. How many volunteer firefighters have served year by year (2005 – 2015) in brigades in New Zealand?

Financial Year	No. Volunteers	Comment
2008/09	7111	
2009/10	7899	
2010/11	8039	
2011/12	8119	
2012/13	8300	Annual Report (included Industrial Brigades and Rural)
2013/14	8300	Annual Report (included Industrial Brigades and Rural)
2014/15	8100	Annual Report (excluded Industrial Brigades and Rural)

3. **How many volunteer firefighters left brigades in New Zealand (year by year 2005 – 2015)?**

<b>Financial Year</b>	<b>Volunteer Leavers</b>
2008/09	1194
2009/10	1030
2010/11	915
2011/12	911
2012/13	976
2013/14	971
2014/15	957

*N.B. These include all reasons for leaving, including dismissals.*

4. **How many volunteer firefighters were discharged from brigades in New Zealand (year by year 2005-2015)?**

<b>Financial Year</b>	<b>Volunteer Leavers dismissed</b>
2008/09	10
2009/10	8
2010/11	15
2011/12	23
2012/13	15
2013/14	28
2014/15	27

5. **How many volunteer firefighters were discharged from brigades in New Zealand (year by year 2005-2015 by category ie bad behaviour, bullying, not following orders, bringing the brigade/NZFS into disrepute etc)?**

NZFS does not have the number of discharges broken down in the manner you ask for. Brigades make decisions about their own membership and NZFS does not record the reasons for the discharge.

6. **Of the volunteer firefighters that were discharged from brigades in New Zealand (year by year 2005-2015) how many appealed the discharge?**

Appeals of discharge are decided by the UFBA, not the NZFS. NZFS does not have the information you have requested.

**7. How many volunteer firefighters were discharged from brigades in New Zealand (year by year 2005-2015) had their discharge overturned?**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Discharge overturned</b>
2008/09	0
2009/10	0
2010/11	0
2011/12	0
2012/13	0
2013/14	0
2014/15	1

N.B.

- a. In 2008 we began more focused work on Volunteer Sustainability. This in turn provided a chance to view, look more closely and update our Volunteer data. We cannot validate the collection and management of our Volunteer data prior to 2008.
- b. We have provided data based on financial years, as this is how it has been recorded pursuant to annual reporting requirements.
- c. The numbers include Volunteers in roles of Firefighters, Non-Operational Support, Operational Support and Brigade Support. We are unable to split these out to just Volunteer Firefighters. Therefore all our responses to the questions are based on Volunteers as a whole, not specifically Volunteer Firefighters.

Yours sincerely



Rob Pope  
Director, Office of the Chief Executive