

12 MAY 2017

Mr Luke Chandler
fyi-request-5724-2022fa05@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Mr Chandler

Official Information Act 1982 Request – Confidentiality Agreements

Thank you for your request for information received on 12 April 2017. You requested that the Earthquake Commission (EQC) make available to you the following information:

'Please provide all information in relation to the following:

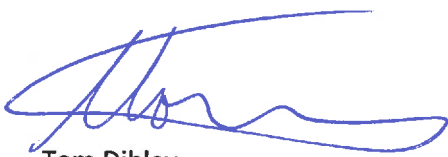
- *'The number of claimants which have been required to sign a "confidentiality agreement" (this may include, but not be limited to stop claimants from criticising the agency)*
- *Why claimants are required to sign a "confidentiality agreement" in relation to repairs.'*

In order to provide the number of settlement agreements which include a confidentiality clause EQC would be required to investigate each individual claim where the customer had engaged in litigation, mediation or other dispute resolution channels to determine if a settlement agreement had been signed and then read any settlement agreement to identify a relevant clause. This part of your request is therefore refused under section 18(f): *that the information requested cannot be provided without substantial collation or research.*

A confidentiality clause is a standard term in settlement agreements. Please note, a customer has the right to obtain legal advice in respect of the terms of the settlement agreement before signing said agreement.

This response completes your request for information. You have the right to ask the Ombudsman to investigate and review my decision. The Ombudsman can be contacted at PO Box 10 152, Wellington 6143, on Freephone 0800 802 602, or at <http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz>.

Yours sincerely



Tom Dibley
Manager, Office of the Chief Executive