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2 July 2019

Alan Thompson

By email: fyi-request-10446-6a3d45ed@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Alan

Information Request – Pigeon Valley Fires

I refer to your official information request dated 4 June 2019 asking for the following information:

1. What were the services that were coded as “External Firefighting Services” and who provided these services?

External firefighting services are those resources that are not owned or, in the case of people, are not employed by Fire and Emergency. They may include forestry company or Department of Conservation personnel, and operators of heavy equipment such as diggers, bulldozers, water tankers, etc.

2. What comprised the “Payments to Employees” that were coded to these costs?

Items coded as *Payments to Employees* include payments for overtime (\$1,005.9k), travel reimbursements (\$10.2k) and salary (\$10.9k).

3. How many Volunteers were paid in the form of a “Re-imbusement” and what was the total of the Re-imbusement payments?

Sixty-three volunteers were paid reimbursements totalling \$12,077. The payments coded as reimbursements were for mileage, parking, petrol, travel costs, and meals.

4. How many Volunteers were paid in the form of an hourly rate and what was the total of these payments?

It is our intention to provide you with a response to this question once we have considered all the financial data to ensure our response is correct. We will provide you with a response as soon as we are able, but no later than 19 July 2019.

5. How many hours of helicopter time were charged to this fire?

A total of 1,804.24 hours of helicopter time has been charged to the Tasman Fires.

6. Provide a list of FENZ payments made to individual forest owners who attended the Pigeon Valley fire?

Company	Cost Type	Dates	Cost
Nelson Management Ltd	Incident Management Team staff	5 Feb – 5 March	\$49,214.18
	Fire appliances		\$106,587
Tasman Pine Forests	Incident Management Team staff	5 Feb – 22 Feb	\$52,459.36
	Fire appliances		\$399,169

7. What FENZ payment, if any, was made to Department of Conservation for attendance at the Pigeon Valley fire?

We have not been invoiced nor made a payment to DOC for services they provided during the fire, but have accrued \$400,000 of costs based on DOC estimates.

8. How many FENZ Fire Appliance/Tanker hours was there in the response to this fire and what is the cost for this response?

As the cost of using our own appliances and tankers is not charged to an incident, we did not record the number of our appliances and tankers used to fight the Tasman Fires or the hours each appliance or tanker was used during the event. This part of your request is declined under section 18(e) of the Official Information Act 1982.

You will, however, find in the SMS incident report which is being released to you in response to another request, details of the appliances and tankers with LMR radios fitted that attended the Tasman Fires, and the time each of those appliances or tankers arrived and departed the incident.

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.

Note also that this response (with your personal details removed) may be published on the Fire and Emergency website.

Yours sincerely



Raewyn Bleakley
Deputy Chief Executive, Office of the Chief Executive