

6 August 2019

Alan Thompson

By email: [fyi-request-10446-6a3d45ed@requests.fyi.org.nz](mailto:fyi-request-10446-6a3d45ed@requests.fyi.org.nz)

Dear Alan

We are writing with reference to our response dated 18 July 2019 to your official information requested dated 4 June 2019 for information about the Pigeon Valley fires.

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

When we began processing your request, we found the information you were seeking more difficult to define in our database than expected, and extended the timeframe so that a more robust search could be made. Unfortunately, we found we were still unable to retrieve data that reflected a true and accurate record by the extended due date. Therefore, in our response to you dated 18 July 2019, we advised that we could not report the numbers of volunteers paid by an hourly rate with any confidence.

Following our response, we decided to continue to scrutinize and test our information databases to check if there was any way to locate the information. During this process, we found that there was a way to re-define the search parameters that allowed us to identify the data you requested and we are now able to answer your query as follows:

- 231 volunteers were paid an hourly rate on deployment at the Pigeon Valley fires totaling \$720,507.83.

We apologise for any inconvenience to you.

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](http://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.

Kind regards



Raewyn Bleakley  
Deputy Chief Executive, Office of the Chief Executive