



National Headquarters

Level 12
80 The Terrace
PO Box 2133
Wellington
New Zealand

Phone +64 4 496 3600

19 July 2019

Alan Washington

By email: fyi-request-10579-3c263f41@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Alan

Information Request – Situations where firefighters entered buildings without knowledge of Asbestos

I am writing in relation to your information request dated 25 June 2019 asking for the number of times firefighters have entered a building and it was later discovered the building posed an asbestos risk, during each of the past five years.

Fire and Emergency records when asbestos is identified at an incident, however our systems don't allow us to match this with property records identify asbestos prior to attending an incident. Therefore we are refusing your request under section 18(g) of the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA).

Fire and Emergency takes potential asbestos contamination seriously. We have decontamination processes in place that all of our crews undertake when potential asbestos contamination occurs. These processes are in line with international best practice for firefighters dealing with asbestos contamination.

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.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Raewyn Bleakley', written over a light blue horizontal line.

Raewyn Bleakley
Deputy Chief Executive, Office of the Chief Executive