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10 February 2020

Blaize McCabe
By email: fyi-request-12037-51126f87@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Blaize

Information Request – Cost of FENZ Personnel in Australia

I refer to your official information request dated 15 January 2020 asking for the total cost of having FENZ personnel (including Volunteers) in Australia since October 2019.

New Zealand has agreements in place with Australia which allows for mutually reciprocal support and cost recovery. As the costs of deployment to Australia will be recovered from the relevant host agency, these costs are not funded by New Zealand levy payers. The following costs will be recovered from the relevant Australian agencies in due course.

Our records show that as at 31 December 2019, the cost of deploying personnel in 2019 to New South Wales and Queensland to assist with the wildfires has totalled \$1,512,755. It can take a number of months for all costs associated with an event to be logged and we therefore expect this total to increase over time. The costs associated with the deployments in 2020 are yet to be collated and are therefore not included in the above total. As mentioned above, these costs will be recovered from the Australian agencies.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Raewyn Bleakley'.

Raewyn Bleakley
Deputy Chief Executive, Office of the Chief Executive