



11 May 2020

Alan Thompson
fyi-request-12460-61041888@requests.fyi.org.nz

Reference: OIA-2019/20-0418

Dear Alan Thompson

Official Information Act request relating to Whakaari/White Island eruption review

Thank you for your Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) request received on 17 March 2020. You requested:

1. *“A copy of the Terms of Reference or other documents setting out the scope of the review being undertaken by NEMA of the response by CD to the Whakaari/White Island eruption?”*
2. *Confirmation that the review will include all aspects of the response to the eruption and in particular to the search, rescue and recovery of victims of the eruption, that being the major operational task undertaken under the management/coordination of the Lead Agency (BOPEMG)? The search, rescue and recovery operations post eruption were undertaken by NZ Police who advised that they were a service operating to support the Lead Agency (BOPEMG) under NZ's Coordinated Incident Management System (CIMS).*
3. *A copy of the review report on the eruption response as being undertaken by NEMA.”*

Please find below our responses to your above questions.

1. ***A copy of the Terms of Reference or other documents setting out the scope of the review being undertaken by NEMA of the response by CD to the Whakaari/White Island eruption***

The National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) is not undertaking a review of the response by CD to the Whakaari/White Island eruption. The NEMA is undertaking a review of its own response; the review follows NEMA's standard process following each response with debriefing, capturing lessons, and identifying any internal corrective actions that may be necessary. Accordingly, I am refusing your request for a copy of the terms of reference or other documents which set out the scope of the review of NEMA's response, under section 18(e) of the Act, as the information requested does not exist or, despite reasonable efforts to locate it, cannot be found.

2. ***Confirmation that the review will include all aspects of the response to the eruption and in particular to the search, rescue and recovery of victims of the eruption, that being the major operational task undertaken under the management/coordination of the Lead Agency (BOPEMG)? The search, rescue and recovery operations post eruption were undertaken by NZ Police who advised that they were a service operating to support the Lead Agency (BOPEMG) under NZ's Coordinated Incident Management System (CIMS).***

The scope of the review that NEMA undertakes, only relate to the response that NEMA undertook. We will not be reviewing the responses of the Bay of Plenty CDEM Group or other agencies to the Whakaari/White Island eruption.

3. A copy of the review report on the eruption response as being undertaken by NEMA.

The review and the subsequent report of NEMA's response to the Whakaari/White Island eruption has not yet been completed. Accordingly, I am refusing your request for a copy of this report, under section 18(e) of the Act, as the information requested does not exist or, despite reasonable efforts to locate it, cannot be found. Please note, that due to NEMA's ongoing involvement to the New Zealand Government's response to COVID-19, that there may be delays in the production of NEMA's report of our response to the Whakaari/White Island eruption.

I trust you find this information useful.

You have the right to ask the Ombudsman to investigate and review my decision under section 28(3) of the Act.

Finally, for your information, this response will be published on the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet's website during our regular publication cycle. Typically, information is released monthly, or as otherwise determined. Your personal information including name and contact details will be removed for publication.

Yours sincerely



Carolyn Schwalger
Chief Executive, National Emergency Management Agency