

13 May 2020

Our reference: IR-01-20-8787

Alan Thompson
NZ Resident

Dear Alan,

Thank you for your online submission dated 17 March 2020 requesting information surrounding the management of the Whakaari/ White Island eruption and clarification in regards to your previous request.

You requested:

“It would seem that your response to my OIA (your ref IR-01-20-2005) may not be correct in that these records clearly identify NZ Police as the Lead Agency for the major component of the response (the search, rescue and recovery). This was a multiagency response requiring the Coordinated Incident Management System (CIMS) to be implemented (e.g. as per Pike River). In light of the apparent error in your response I would like to re-submit my Official Information Request for your further consideration and further response/confirmation.”

Your request has been considered in accordance with the Official Information Act 1982.

In the letter you sent as part of your current request you informed us that - “NEMA have now advised that they were not the Lead Agency and that Bay of Plenty Emergency Management Group (BOPEMG) were the lead.”

It is quite clear from the information provided to you by NEMA that the New Zealand Police were not the lead agency in the Whakaari/White Island eruption. As previously stated the New Zealand Police, as a service facilitated the search, rescue and recovery phase of the Whakaari/White Island operation in support of the lead agency (BOPEMG).

You have the right to ask the Ombudsman to review my decision if you are not satisfied with Police’s response to your request.

Yours sincerely,



Superintendent Andrew Sissons
National Manager: Response & Operations

Police National Headquarters

180 Molesworth Street, Thorndon, Wellington SX11149
Telephone: (04) 474 9499. www.police.govt.nz