

Our Ref: 21-0029

Dear Mr Thompson

Decision on Your Official information Request

We refer to your 9 March 2021 request for information under the Local Government Official Information and Meeting Request Act 1987 (LGOIMA) regarding the Lead Agency Whakaari Eruption Response. Your request was transferred from Whakatāne District Council to Emergency Management Bay Of Plenty and received on 17 March 2021. Responses to your particular requests are set out below.

1. Confirmation of the advice from NZ Police that they were operating under the overall command and control of the IMT as established by BOP CDEM Group and that the IMT planned, assigned and managed the daily Police taskings in accordance with the Coordinated Incident Management System (Version 2)

The Bay Of Plenty CDEM Group was the lead agency and provided control. NZ Police was the operational lead agency for coordinating recovery and reconciliation as set out in section 41 of the National Civil Defence Emergency Management Plan Order 2015. New Zealand Police had command authority to supervise and organise its personnel, resources, and taskings.

This is supported by the IAPs (available here <http://www.bopcivildefence.govt.nz/documents/?filter=Whakaari>). Each IAP, under "Section 4: Intent" states "*The NZ Police are coordinating recovery and reconciliation*". In Action Plan 1 (9 December 2019), "Section 5: Designated Tasks" includes the statement "*POLICE [independent response]: Lead agency for rescue and reconciliation functions*".

2. The written instructions (eg Tasking, etc) as signed off by the IC that was appointed by Bay Of Plenty CDEM Group if they were not part of the IAPs previously provided.

There are no written instructions or taskings that were not part of the IAPs. We therefore refuse this request under section 17(e) of LGOIMA on the basis that this information does not exist.

3. Advice as to what roles were assigned to New Zealand Police personnel in the CIMS IMT structure Bay Of Plenty CDEM Group established at the Whakatāne EOC. Of particular interest are the roles they filled in the Planning Section and the Operations Section of the IMT

New Zealand Police as the lead for the rescue operation were involved in the IMT providing specialist input but New Zealand Police personnel were not assigned roles within the CIMS IMT structure the Bay Of Plenty CDEM Group established at the Whakatane EOC. New Zealand Police ran their own IMT with the corresponding functions communicating where required.

We hope the information provided in response to your request, coupled with the links to the additional resources provided above, meet your requirements. If you are not satisfied with this reply, you have the right to lodge a complaint with the Ombudsman under section 27(3) of the Act. The Ombudsman's Office can be contacted by calling 0800 802 602, emailing info@ombudsman.parliament.nz or online at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz.

If you contact the Council about this request, please quote the reference number provided at the top of this letter.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Clinton Naude'.

Clinton Naude CEM

Director Emergency Management Bay of Plenty