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26 August 2020

Alan Thompson

By email: fyi-request-13328-36fd480b@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Alan

Information Request – Old Dunstan Road Fire 9th Nov 2019

I refer to your official information request dated 16 July 2020 asking for a copy of the Operational Review for vegetation fire at Old Dunstan Road, Middlemarch, on 9 November 2019. You also asked for an update of the costs of the fire and a breakdown of the costs apportioned between Fire and Emergency and the Department of Conservation.

Fire and Emergency is committed to learning from the incidents we attend. Operational Reviews are one method Fire and Emergency uses to identify what went well and areas for improvement. Please find *enclosed* a copy of the Operational Review report you requested.

As part of our assessment of your request, we have consulted with the Department of Conservation on the potential release of the Operational Review report. The Department has asked us to clarify that while the Operational Review report refers to the person who initially reported the fire as a Department of Conservation Ranger, the individual was in the Papanui Conservation Park for recreational purposes, not in their capacity as a Department of Conservation Ranger. The Department of Conservation Ranger was not in the location as a Department of Conservation resource, but their knowledge of the area and its terrain meant they were able to supply helpful information during the early stages of the incident response.

The table overleaf provides a breakdown of the costs recorded by Fire and Emergency as at 26 July 2020. The Department of Conservation has agreed to reimburse Fire and Emergency \$593,253 for the costs incurred for this incident, as the fire was found to have originated on Department of Conservation land:

F2879764 - Old Dunstan Road 9 November 2019	Costs as at 26 July 2020 (\$)
Hire of Aerial Services	408,959
External Firefighting Services*	127,537
Labour	40,838
Travel & Accommodation & Meals	13,558
Incident Catering	6,930
Foam	1,579
Plant & Equipment Hire - Operational	1,350
Operational equipment repairs and maintenance	1,005
Other Supplies	112
Total	601,868

* External firefighting services are those resources that are not owned by Fire and Emergency or, in the case of people, are not Fire and Emergency personnel. They may include forestry company or Department of Conservation personnel and operators of heavy equipment such as diggers, bulldozers, water tankers, etc.

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



Raewyn Bleakley
Deputy Chief Executive, Office of the Chief Executive

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