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Alan Thompson

By email: fyi-request-14323-9960c783@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Alan

Information Request – Whakaari/White Island

I refer to your information request dated 17 December 2020 asking for:

- 1. As one of the emergency services involved in the response, please advise who was the Lead Agency that was responsible for the overall management of the incident and assigned and managed the tasks that Fire and Emergency NZ undertook?
Note: multi-agency responses in NZ are mandated to be managed using the Coordinated Incident Management System (CIMS) which requires a Lead Agency to be assigned.*
- 2. Please identify what functional roles FENZ personnel were assigned to in the Lead Agency's Incident Management Team (IMT) that was established to manage the response to the Whakaari disaster and specifically to the rescue/recovery operations that followed the first day of the incident (the 9th Dec).*
- 3. FENZ's own Command and Control procedures specify that FENZ will complete an Incident Action Plan (IAP) which it then gives to the Lead Agency's IC to be included in the overall IAP for the incident (ref Two levels of Planning 2.5.3 and 2.5.4). Please provide copies of the IAPs that FENZ produced for Whakaari and which were included in the Lead Agency's daily IAPs.*
- 4. Please provide copies of the daily Whakaari IAPs that identify the tasks as assigned to FENZ resources by the Lead Agency's Incident Management Team (IMT) and as signed off by the Incident Controller (IC).*

On 4 February 2021, we wrote to you advising of an extension to the timeframe for deciding on your request. That has enabled us to consult with the Coroner, WorkSafe New Zealand, and the National Emergency Management Agency in relation to your request and information we hold that is relevant to it.

Your request has been assessed in accordance with the provisions of the Official Information Act 1982. I have provided our response to your queries below.

1. *As one of the emergency services involved in the response, please advise who was the Lead Agency that was responsible for the overall management of the incident and assigned and managed the tasks that Fire and Emergency NZ undertook?*

Under the Coordinated Incident Management System, the Bay of Plenty Civil Defence Emergency Management Group was the overall lead agency for the incident, while the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) was the lead agency at the national level to coordinate support for Bay of Plenty.

2. *Please identify what functional roles FENZ personnel were assigned to in the Lead Agency's Incident Management Team (IMT) that was established to manage the response to the Whakaari disaster and specifically to the rescue/recovery operations that followed the first day of the incident (the 9th Dec).*

Fire and Emergency personnel were assigned the following roles within the Incident Management Team:

- Liaison Officer in the National Coordination Management Centre
- Liaison Officer in Police NHQ
- Liaison Officer in the Emergency Operations Centre
- Uninhabited Aircraft System (UAS) Commander

For completeness, I note that our personnel were also represented on the Scientific Technical Advisory Committee (STAC).

3. *FENZ's own Command and Control procedures specify that FENZ will complete an Incident Action Plan (IAP) which it then gives to the Lead Agency's IC to be included in the overall IAP for the incident (ref Two levels of Planning 2.5.3 and 2.5.4). Please provide copies of the IAPs that FENZ produced for Whakaari and which were included in the Lead Agency's daily IAPs.*

Fire and Emergency has identified three documents where planning information was provided to the lead agency. The documents are in the form of a Situation Report (SitRep) and are *enclosed*. Some information has been redacted:

- to protect the privacy of individuals named in the documents; and
 - because some information is outside the scope of your request (some of the documents cover incidents in addition to Whakaari/White Island).
4. *Please provide copies of the daily Whakaari IAPs that identify the tasks as assigned to FENZ resources by the Lead Agency's Incident Management Team (IMT) and as signed off by the Incident Controller (IC).*

Fire and Emergency has not identified any documents that fit this description. Accordingly, this part of your request is declined under section 18(e) of the Official Information Act 1982:

- that the document alleged to contain the information requested does not exist or, despite reasonable efforts to locate it, cannot be found.

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.

Yours sincerely



Raewyn Bleakley
Deputy Chief Executive, Office of the Chief Executive

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