

2 March 2021

Our Reference: IR-01-20-38485

Alan Thompson
fyi-request-14327-f541ff89@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Alan

I am writing in response to the email you submitted 18 December 2020. Your request has been considered pursuant to the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act). Specifically, your request stated:

With respect to NZ Police's response to the Whakaari/White Island disaster I seek the following information under the provisions of the Official Information Act.

- 1. Where NZ Police at any time after the eruption of Whakaari on 9th December 2019 managing, controlling, directing or otherwise responsible for coordinating the response to the disaster including the search for, rescue and/or recovery of victims of the incident?*
- 2. If NZ Police were at some point initially responsible for coordination of the response was the handover to NEMA or to the Bay of Plenty CD&EM Group and what was the date/time of that handover?*
- 3. Who then were the other agencies that NZ Police were coordinating and was this undertaken in accordance with the NZ Coordinated Incident Management System as required by the National Plan?*

As stated in our previous responses to you dated 21 February 2020 (reference 01-20-2005) and 13 May 2020 (reference 01-20-8787), at no point were Police the lead agency responding to the 9 December 2019 Whakaari/White Island eruption.

As such, the information you have requested is refused pursuant to section 18(e) of the Act which states: 'A request...may be refused for one or more of the following reasons, namely: the document alleged to contain the information requested does not exist'

I trust you are satisfied with my response to your request. If not, you have a right under section 28(3) of the Act to ask the Office of the Ombudsman to seek an investigation and review of my decision.

Yours sincerely



Inspector Nic Brown
Acting Director: Capability, Leadership and Capability

Police National Headquarters

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