



## Office of Hon Nikki Kaye

MP for Auckland Central

Minister for Food Safety

Minister of Civil Defence

Minister of Youth Affairs

Associate Minister of Education

Associate Minister of Immigration

Mr Alan Thompson

Email: [fyi-request-1895-efbfb47e@requests.fyi.org.nz](mailto:fyi-request-1895-efbfb47e@requests.fyi.org.nz)

Dear Mr Thompson

### Official Information Act Request for Status of the EMIS Project

I refer to your official information request of 14 August 2014 in which you raised a number of questions in relation to the Emergency Management Information System (EMIS) project. Responses to each of the questions you raised are given below.

- 1) *Four years on from the original roll out date:*
  - (a) *Of the sixteen Civil Defence regions, how many does the Ministry consider to be fully trained and competent in the use of EMIS in the event of a local, regional or national CD emergency (ie, shared information, communications and emergency management); and*
  - (b) *What is the revised date by which the Ministry now plans to have the system fully implemented nationally as per the original plan?*

MCDEM is encouraged by the progress and uptake of EMIS. The uptake by Civil Defence Emergency Management (CDEM) Groups is voluntary and will vary, as it is mostly linked to their Group programmes. However, all 16 CDEM Groups have signed a Memorandum of Understanding that provides for use of the system. The Ministry of Civil Defence & Emergency Management (MCDEM) does provide on-going support to assist CDEM Groups, including three trainers which are funded for by the CDEM Resilience fund and two full time MCDEM employees.

The system was rolled out in December 2011 and is considered well-established, so there is no target date "to have the system fully implemented nationally" across all CDEM Groups. CDEM Groups and their constituent councils manage the registration of users, and there are more than 2600 registered users on the system.

- 2) *The EMIS project is now some 4 years past its proposed roll out date of mid 2010:*
  - (a) *What is the Ministry's total spend to date on the project to customise E-Sponder and implement this system as EMIS; and*
  - (b) *What is the Ministry's budget to complete the national roll out of EMIS to all 16 regions including an estimate of what they are expected to contribute to their training cost?*

The total project cost and budgeted costs at project closure (April 2009 programme start - Dec 2012 close of programme) are illustrated in the table below.

Project Costs	Actuals Cost to date	Total Estimated Cost (	Total Budget	Baseline
Capital Expenditure	\$2.1m	\$2.1m		\$2.8m
Operation Expenditure	\$2.1m	\$2.1m		\$2.3m
Totals	\$4.2m	\$4.2m		\$5.1m

\*Note these costs include NCMC video conferencing and an alternative communications (microwave) system to support the NCMC and EMIS.

In the 2013/14 financial year a further \$220,000 in operating costs for maintenance & enhancements to EMIS was spent. Also, separate funding was obtained to appoint an additional full time equivalent in December 2013 to support the system, this represented an additional \$110,000.

As noted above, EMIS was rolled out in December 2011 and is considered well-established. I am advised MCDEM's on-going operating budget is \$220,000 per annum including maintenance contracts. MCDEM does not have information on what CDEM Groups budget towards training and this will obviously vary based on the ability and need of each CDEM Group. On-going CDEM Resilience Fund support for training is subject to CDEM Groups requesting it.

- 3) *In a reply to a written question from the Hon Peter Dunne dated 18 March 2013 the Minister of Civil Defence (the Hon Nikki Kaye) advised that Wellington (as a CD region) was trained in EMIS but had not then used it for any emergencies as "none had warranted it".*
- (a) *Since March 2013 has Wellington in conjunction with the NCMC had any significant CD event (eg, the severe earthquake of July 2013) and utilised EMIS in the management the emergency (eg supporting Operations, Planning/Intell, Logistics and Welfare);*
  - (b) *What formal and ongoing exercising has the Ministry undertaken in conjunction with WREMO and the NCMC that tests both parties capability and competency in the use of the system; and*
  - (c) *Does the Ministry consider that WREMO as an organisation is fully trained and competent in the use of EMIS in the event of a local, regional or national civil defence emergency?*

I am advised Wellington Region Emergency Management Office (WREMO) did use EMIS for reporting purposes during the June 2013 storm event, the July 2013 Seddon earthquake and the Lake Grassmere earthquake in August 2013. WREMO have since implemented the Welfare Registration and Inquiry module for future use. MCDEM's understanding is WREMO will implement further modules progressively subject to their current programme of operational enhancements.

In response to your question concerning exercises undertaken in conjunction with WREMO and the National Crisis Management Centre (NCMC) regarding capability

and competency in the use of the EMIS, I am advised there has been no joint exercise using EMIS.

A programme of work is currently being undertaken by WREMO to enhance their operational capability. As part of this, WREMO staff have undertaken a number of EMIS related training modules conducted by a trainer funded by the CDEM Resilience Fund. WREMO have indicated their support for EMIS as a national emergency management information tool.

- 4) *In accordance with best practice for public sector IT projects (ref SSC and Audit Office published guidelines) the EMIS project will have been subject to regular reviews and audits, particularly given the ongoing delays, missed deadlines and scope creep.*
- (a) *A copy of the most recent formal Project Review/Audit is requested.*

An independent review or audit was not requested by the State Services Commission (SSC) or by the project board at the time of this project. When the EMIS project was completed, the Government Chief Information Officer role (GCIO) and Better Business Case approach was not in place. The project was, however, subject to SSC monitoring and the Director of MCDEM and the Project Manager met regularly with SSC. Therefore, your request for the most recent formal project review or audit is declined under section 18(e) of the Official Information Act – *“that the document alleged to contain the information requested does not exist or cannot be found”*. You may wish to consider approaching SSC regarding the monitoring of this project.

You are entitled to ask the Ombudsman to review this response under section 28(3) of the Official Information Act.

Yours sincerely



Hon Nikki Kaye  
**Minister of Civil Defence**