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Alan Thompson

By email: fyi-request-19859-fa2fa482@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Alan

Information Request – Homes Lost or Destroyed Rural wildfires

I refer to your official information request dated 08 July 2022 asking for the following information.

- “1. The FENZ definition of what a "Structure" means in terms of fire incident data?*
- 2. The number of wildfire incidents that occurred in 2020/21 within the Rural/Urban Interface (if FENZ records/reports this information).*
- 3. The statistics for 2020/21 of the number of homes destroyed as a direct consequence of a wildfire incident.*
- 4. The statistics for 2020/21 of the number of home damaged as a direct consequence of a wildfire incident.”*

In accordance with the provisions of the Official Information Act 1982, please find below a response to your request.

1. The FENZ definition of what a "Structure" means in terms of fire incident data?

In terms of reporting on structure fires, the descriptions for Fire and Emergency New Zealand’s “Structure Fire with Damage” and Structure Fire without Damage” incident types refer to a “building fire”.

2. The number of wildfire incidents that occurred in 2020/21 within the Rural/Urban Interface (if FENZ records/reports this information).

Fire and Emergency does not record the information as you have requested, therefore your request is declined at this time under section 18(e) of the OIA, as the information does not currently exist.

3. The statistics for 2020/21 of the number of homes destroyed as a direct consequence of a wildfire incident.

Data pulled from Fire and Emergency's (Station Management System) 'SMS' has recorded 7 homes destroyed as a direct consequence of a wildfire incident.

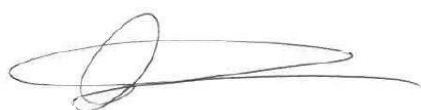
4. The statistics for 2020/21 of the number of homes damaged as a direct consequence of a wildfire incident.

Data pulled from Fire and Emergency's (Station Management System) 'SMS' has recorded 9 homes damaged as a direct consequence of a wildfire incident.

The data provided to you to answer questions 3 and 4 is collated from Fire and Emergency electronic station management system and is incomplete. This is because exposure fires (fires resulting from another fire outside that structure), particularly in relation to vegetation fires are not always recorded in this database. For example, the Lake Ohau fire, which destroyed a number of homes in October 2020, is recorded as having no exposures despite the loss of a significant number of houses.

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.

Nāku noa, nā



Julia McCook-Weir
Manager, Information Requests

