

Our Ref DOIA 23-012

9 August 2022

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Dear Craig

Response to your official information request

Thank you for your official information request received on 12 July 2022 asking for:

"a copy of the ELFI database, the database of files held by Land Information New Zealand made available to Accredited Agents."

We appreciate that today is the final day for responding to your request. We have taken this time to pursue every possible option for making the official information available to you.

The ELFI database contains the file names of over 180,000 historic files from LINZ's and its predecessor organisations, (such as the Department of Survey & Land Information (DoSLI), Department of Lands and Survey and Ministry of Works).

Many of the file names in the ELFI database contain personal information, which means we cannot allow access to the full database.

Unfortunately, the file names containing personal information are dispersed throughout the entire database, and it is not possible to separate file name that do contain personal information. Similarly taking a copy of the entire database and entering it into a system where the personal information can be redacted, is too administratively challenging.

Therefore, we are refusing your request under section 9(2)(a) in order to protect the privacy of natural persons. We have considered whether it would be possible to remove the information protected under this subsection, however doing so would require a manual check of the full list of 180,000 file names, which is not feasible. Your request could therefore also be refused on the grounds under section 18(f) as the information cannot be made accessible without substantial collation or research.

We are happy to assist you in identifying any particular information you are interested in, so we can undertake a search of the database on your behalf to locate the relevant file names.

We would then be able to review those file names and redact any personal information before making them available to you.

If you would like to accept this offer, please contact ministerialsupport@linz.govt.nz who will put you in contact with the appropriate person.

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



Pete Hill
Principal Advisor
Ministerial Support and Official Correspondence