



22 June 2023

Joel Ardern

By email: [fyi-request-22896-d802c986@requests.fyi.org.nz](mailto:fyi-request-22896-d802c986@requests.fyi.org.nz)

Tēnā koe Joel

**Official information request regarding Fire Control and Protection Systems in Halls of Residence**

We refer to the following official information request you made on 24 May 2023:

- “1.) What fire controls are in place for each hall? If the Hall is a refurbished building and not a new build, what were the pre-existing fire controls/protections, and what new controls/protections were installed as part of the refurbishment?*
- 2.) How often are these controls/protections tested to ensure they are working correctly?*
- 3.) In the last 3 years, how many times have alarm systems been deactivated in Halls, and for what extent of time were they deactivated for?*
- 4.) Has the University recently done any reviews on the fire controls/protections in place in Halls to identify areas where it could improve? If not, will they be conducting one in light of the Loafers Lodge tragedy?*
- 5.) A copy of any fire engineer reports that exist for each hall.”*

- 1) What fire controls are in place for each hall? If the Hall is a refurbished building and not a new build, what were the pre-existing fire controls/protections, and what new controls/protections were installed as part of the refurbishment?**

Fire control and protection systems available at University owned and leased Halls of Residence are shown in Attachment 1.

- 2) How often are these controls/protections tested to ensure they are working correctly?**

The University conducts annual Building Warrant of Fitness checks, trial evacuations every 6 months, and sprinkler surveys twice a year. Copies of these reports are included in Attachment 3 where available. Please note, information regarding leased or partner halls has been supplied where it is held by the University. In some cases regarding partner or leased halls, this information is not held by the University. Provision of information regarding testing of fire controls/protections for these halls is refused in accordance with s18(g) of the Act as the information is not held by the University.

**3) In the last 3 years, how many times have alarm systems been deactivated in Halls, and for what extent of time were they deactivated for?**

Information regarding fire alarm deactivations at properties owned by the University is provided in Attachment 2. Information regarding fire alarm deactivations at leased properties is held by the property owners. Therefore your request for information relating to fire alarm system deactivations at leased properties is refused in accordance with s18(g) of the Act as the information is not held by the University.

**4) Has the University recently done any reviews on the fire controls/protections in place in Halls to identify areas where it could improve? If not, will they be conducting one in light of the Loafers Lodge tragedy?**

Fire Control and Protection Systems were last reviewed in June 2022. There were no significant issues identified and matters that were raised have been dealt with. There are no plans for further reviews at this time.

**5) A copy of any fire engineer reports that exist for each hall.”**

Fire engineer reports for University owned properties and leased halls (where available) are provided in Attachment 3. Reports for other leased properties are held by the property owners. Therefore the aspect of your request relating to fire engineer reports for other leased properties is refused in accordance with s18(g) of the Act as the information is not held by the University.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of the decisions made regarding this request. Information about how to make a complaint is available at [www.ombudsman.parliament.nz](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz) or freephone 0800 802 602.

If you wish to discuss this decision with us, please feel free to contact us at [oiarequests@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:oiarequests@vuw.ac.nz).

Ngā mihi nui,

Legal Services  
**Te Herenga Waka—Victoria University of Wellington**