

James Russell
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Dear James Russell

Otago Rural Fire Authority and the Official Information Act 1982

Thank you for your correspondence of 14 March 2015 to the Department of Internal Affairs asking, under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA):

"Was the Otago Rural Fire Authority's exclusion from the Official Information Act 1982 an oversight?"

This request was transferred to the Ministry of Justice on 16 March 2015 under section 14(b)(i) of the OIA.

As you are aware, the Otago Rural Fire Authority (ORFA) is not subject to the OIA in its own right as it is not listed in the relevant schedule of the OIA. However the ORFA may hold relevant information on behalf of other agencies that are subject to the OIA or the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 (LGOIMA).

You may wish to make requests for information from the agencies on behalf of which the ORFA performs its functions. These are the Central Otago District Council, Clutha District Council, Dunedin City Council, Queenstown Lakes District Council, Waitaki District Council and the Department of Conservation.

Whether or not the ORFA, and rural fire authorities generally, need to be added to the appropriate schedule of the OIA will require consideration by officials. Officials will consider this matter when an appropriate legislative vehicle is available.

You have the right under section 28(3) of the Official Information Act 1982 to complain to the Ombudsman about the decisions made in relation to your request.

Yours sincerely



David Crooke
Policy Manager