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Fire and Emergency New Zealand
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Ref: 14968

Rose Calix

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Tēnā koe Rose

Thank you for your request of 9 July 2024, to Fire and Emergency New Zealand requesting the following information:

- I am interested to know the number of staff in FENZ who are reporting of mental health issues such as stress and burn out due to workload, yearly from 2020 to 2023. Please separate the firemen from staff working at the office. I would like it broken down by region and if possible team or group (e.g., Finance, Policy, etc.), by gender and age group.*

Your request has been considered under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA).

In scope of your request are the numbers of staff who have been referred to an Employee Assistance Programme (EAP) or Psychologist. EAP services are mostly self-referral. We can provide data for referrals to EAP from 2021 onwards. Prior to 2021 our provider did not differentiate between volunteers and paid staff in their reporting. For this reason, your request for information for the 2020 to 2021 financial year is refused pursuant to section 18(e) of the OIA, as the document alleged to contain the information requested does not exist.

Please find attached, as an **Appendix** to this response, data showing the numbers of staff who sought EAP services since July 2021. The data is broken down by region, age and gender, however we are unable to separate firefighters from other staff in the data.

Some information has been withheld pursuant to section 9(2)(a) of the OIA, to protect the privacy of natural persons. In making this decision, we have considered the public interest considerations in section 9(1) of the OIA.

Fire and Emergency began recording Psychologist referrals for reporting in August 2023. Prior to this, referrals may have been made but the data was not recorded in a format that allows for analysis. For this reason, the number of referrals prior to August 2023 is refused pursuant to section 18(e) of the OIA, as the document alleged to contain the information requested does not exist.

Please see the table below showing the number of Psychologist referrals for work related issues since August 2023 broken down by firefighters, non-operational staff, and region. We are unable to separate out age or gender. This data only includes staff that were referred for psychological support following report of an issue.

Region	Firefighters	Non-operational
Te Hiku	34	8
Ngā Tai ki te Puku	9	9
Te Ūpoko	16	6
Te Ihu	5	7
Te Kei	2	5
NHQ	-	4
Total	66	39

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.

We trust that the information being provided is of assistance. If you require further information, please email officialinformationrequests@fireandemergency.nz.

Nāku noa, nā



Aidan Saunders
Manager, Information Requests

