



**National Headquarters**  
Fire and Emergency New Zealand  
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6 September 2024

Ref: 15283

Russell N  
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Tēnā koe Russell

Thank you for your request of 9 August 2024, to Fire and Emergency New Zealand requesting information relating to the use of intellectual property of the Fire and Emergency name and crest in an online gaming community named "*Beehive Roleplay*". Your request has been considered under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA) and our response is below.

1. *How did Fire and Emergency New Zealand receive information regarding this*

We received an email to our [communications@fireandemergency.nz](mailto:communications@fireandemergency.nz) inbox on 18 March 2024.

2. *What initial action did Fire and Emergency New Zealand take*

Fire and Emergency emailed Beehive RP on 15 April 2024 to ask whether they had obtained authority from Fire and Emergency to use its branding in the Beehive Roleplay game.

3. *Was there any legal involvement with internal or external parties*

We can confirm that there was legal involvement with both internal and external parties.

4. *What is the gross amount of money Fire and Emergency New Zealand spent on this matter;*

5. *Provide a breakdown of costs involved on this matter*

6. *All internal communications (including software such as Microsoft Teams and Emails) on this matter.*

Please find attached, as an **Appendix** to this response, copies of internal communications on the matter. However, all correspondence and costs relating to legal advice provided by internal/external legal counsel is being withheld in full under section 9(2)(h) of the OIA, to maintain legal professional privilege.

Further information has also been withheld under the following sections of the OIA:

- 9(2)(a), to protect the privacy of natural persons; and
- 9(2)(ba)(i), to protect information which is subject to an obligation of confidence or which any person has been or could be compelled to provide under the authority of any enactment, where the making available of the information – would be likely to prejudice the supply of similar information, or information from the same source, and it is in the public interest that such information should continue to be supplied.

The withholding of information under section 9(2)(ba)(i) of the OIA, is necessary because it relates to how Fire and Emergency became aware of this matter which we consider to be subject to an obligation of confidence. We believe that there would be a chilling effect if people were aware that their details and information they provide to us could be made public. People may be less forthcoming with the information they provide to Fire and Emergency or may simply choose not to report their concerns.

In making this decision, we have considered the public interest considerations in section 9(1) of the OIA.

Some information that is embedded within our release to you is outside the of scope of your request and does not relate to the requested information. Where this has occurred, it will be clearly labelled as out of scope. We have also removed duplicate email strings and full pages that are being withheld.

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](http://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](mailto:officialinformationrequests@fireandemergency.nz).

Nāku noa, nā



Aidan Saunders  
Manager, Information Requests

