



OIA16-0488

20 OCT 2016

Graham Carter  
C/- fyi.org.nz

Dear Graham Carter

### OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT REQUEST

I refer to your official information request on 25 August 2016 relating to fisheries operations and fisheries officers. Please find below a response to each part of your request under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA).

- 1. We request the complete information on the budgets for fisheries operations over the last ten years on all regions around New Zealand.*
- 2. We request the complete information on budget increases or decreases for fisheries operations over the last ten years on all regions around NZ including any directions or orders instigated by Andrew Coleman Deputy Director.*
- 3. We request copies of all Fisheries Operations including covert operations carried out anywhere around New Zealand over the last ten years.*

Parts 1,2 & 3 of your request are refused under section 18(f) of the OIA as the information requested cannot be made available without substantial collation and research. However, in the Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) annual report, there is financial information on fisheries enforcement and monitoring. These reports are publicly available at the following website: <https://www.mpi.govt.nz/about-mpi/corporate-publications/> .

- 4. We request all information on the total number of full time Fisheries Officers employed in New Zealand over the last ten years.*

Since the 2013/2014 financial year, MPI has employed 100 compliance officers who hold fisheries warrants. Information prior to this would require a manual search through MPI records, which are likely to be located at various offices around the country. This part of your request is, therefore, refused under section 18(f) of the OIA.

5. *We request the complete information on the breakdown of Fisheries Officers by Region over the last ten years.*

As per part 4 of your request, this is refused under section 18(f) of the OIA

6. *We request the complete information on the total number of Honorary Fisheries Officers (HFO) employed in New Zealand over the last ten years.*

This is released to you and included as an attachment to this letter. Figures cannot be confirmed for 2011 as this was the period where the Ministry of Fisheries was merged to become MPI. As such, records of HFOs are likely to be housed in local offices. In order to retrieve these figures, it would require substantial collation and research, therefore this request is refused under section 18(f) of the OIA.

7. *We request the complete information on the breakdown of Honorary Fisheries Officers by Region over the last ten years.*

This is released to you and included as an attachment to this letter. Breakdown of regions pre 2011 cannot be confirmed for the same reason as stated in part 6 of your request.

8. *We request all information, copies of emails and reports regarding all and any forms of fisheries officers being required to stay away from any areas around New Zealand, including boat ramps at any particular times of the year.*

MPI is not aware of any such information. The information, if it exists, is not captured in a way that is easily identifiable. In order to fulfil this part of your request, MPI would need to collate and review potentially every email sent to fisheries officers during their shifts. This would require a search through the emails of every fisheries officer, including those no longer employed by MPI. Therefore, this request is refused under section 18(f) of the OIA.

9. *We request all information, copies of emails and reports regarding the number of operations carried out by fisheries officers on any areas around New Zealand, including boat ramps during the last five years including any directions or orders instigated by Andrew Coleman Deputy Director [sic].*

This request is refused under section 18(f) of the OIA as it would require substantial collation and research.

*10. We request all information regarding the education of migrants regarding fisheries offences, and in particular migrants of Chinese and Indian descent.*

As a regulator, MPI takes matters of compliance very seriously regardless of the ethnicity of the fisher. We regularly produce material in various languages. Officers have a wide variety of tools available to them in order to interact with people who may not speak or understand English. This includes the aforementioned brochures, but also includes signs in multiple languages at beaches (where the demographic indicates a need for these) and the ability for officers to access an interpretation service if required. Officers also regularly attend school visits where information is passed onto children of migrants, who then return home and inform parents of the regulations.

This request has not been made with due particularity (as required by section 12 of the OIA). We invite you to rephrase this request in more specific terms.

*11. We request all information, copies of emails and reports regarding the number of fisheries officers or any stay on the employment or non-replacement of all forms fisheries officers on any areas around New Zealand, including any directions or orders instigated by Andrew Coleman Deputy Director [sic].*

This request is refused under section 18(f) of the OIA as it would involve substantial collation and research.

In making the decision to refuse parts of your the request pursuant to section 18(f) of the OIA on the grounds that the information cannot be made available without substantial collation or research, we considered this request together with your other requests relating to fisheries management issues. We also considered whether fixing a charge would enable us to grant your request. Given the considerable amount of information requested, we have decided that charging would not be appropriate. The diversion of resources required to meet your requests would unreasonably interfere with the operations of MPI.

Secondly, pursuant to section 18B, we considered consulting you about revising the scope of the requests. Given the substantial amount of information requested, we do not see that entering into correspondence on this issue is likely to refocus the requests down to a manageable scale.

You have the right under section 28(3) of the OIA to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of our decision to refuse parts of your request.

Yours sincerely



Peter McCarthy  
Chief Legal Adviser

Honorary Fisheries Officers by region

Region	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
<u>KAITAIA</u>	-	-	-	-	-	9	9	8	8	9
<u>WHANGAREI</u>	-	-	-	-	-	17	21	15	17	16
<u>AUCKLAND</u>	-	-	-	-	-	53	55	42	53	49
<u>COROMANDEL</u>	-	-	-	-	-	8	8	6	5	4
<u>TAURANGA</u>	-	-	-	-	-	6	6	6	6	8
<u>HAMILTON</u>	-	-	-	-	-	8	8	8	12	12
<u>GISBORNE</u>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	6	6
<u>NAPIER</u>	-	-	-	-	-	11	11	12	11	10
<u>NEW PLYMOUTH</u>	-	-	-	-	-	10	10	10	10	10
<u>WELLINGTON</u>	-	-	-	-	-	17	17	15	16	19
<u>NELSON</u>	-	-	-	-	-	13	13	11	13	13
<u>BLLENHEIM</u>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7	10	10
<u>KAIKOURA</u>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7	7	7
<u>CHRISTCHURCH</u>	-	-	-	-	-	16	16	16	16	17
<u>DUNEDIN</u>	-	-	-	-	-	12	12	14	13	16
<u>SOUTHLAND</u>	-	-	-	-	-	7	7	8	9	8
<u>CHATHAMS</u>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	4	4
<u>TOTAL TRAINEES</u>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	27	-	14
<u>TOTAL HFO's</u>	160	160	200	225	-	187	193	195	216	218