



Ministry of Civil Defence & Emergency Management

Te Rākau Whakamarumarū

Ralph Titmuss
fyi-request-5055-f5fc93b9@requests.fyi.org.nz

Reference: OIA-2016/17-0231

Dear Ralph Titmuss

OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT REQUEST RELATING TO IDENTIFICATION OF VULNERABLE DEMOGRAPHICS IN A DISASTER

I refer to your Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) request received on 13 December 2016. You requested the following:

"I am working on a masters of architecture thesis at Victoria University of Wellington, and part of my research into community resilience and shelters requires a scale that can be applied so that the most vulnerable parts of our society are given help as a priority. After the Christchurch earthquakes for example there were sections and demographics that required more aid than others, understanding who these sections are is key for this research.

Which sections/demographics of society have you identified as more vulnerable in the event of a large scale earthquake or disaster? And how/why have you identified these sections/demographics?

Could you also release aggregated data and a breakdown of demographics by age/gender/benefit/socioeconomic? This information will directly affect the types of facilities that would be provided in the event of a disaster.

If possible, Wellington specific information would be ideal."

Information publicly available

In response to the first two questions of your request, the information is publicly available on the Civil Defence website:

<http://www.civildefence.govt.nz/cdem-sector/public-education/national-public-education-programme/>

Accordingly, I have refused your request for that information under section 18(d) of the Act – the information requested is or will soon be publicly available.

I also refuse your request for the release of aggregated data pursuant to section 18 (e) of the Act – the document alleged to contain the information requested does not exist or, despite reasonable efforts to locate it, cannot be found.

The research, to identify certain broad demographics that are vulnerable because of their lower levels of preparedness, is used to inform our public education strategy rather than as a predictive measure of who may need welfare in the event of a disaster. The variables in a civil emergency (e.g. location, event,

infrastructural impact) make such an assessment impractical. Anthony Frith, Communications Manager, is available to discuss your research on 04 817 8560, or at Anthony.Frith@dpmc.govt.nz.

You are entitled to ask the Ombudsman to review this response under section 28(3) of the Official Information Act. You can contact the Ombudsman online via the Ombudsman website, by email (info@ombudsman.parliament.nz) or by post to The Ombudsman, PO Box 10152, Wellington 6143. Further details can be found on the Ombudsman website at: www.ombudsman.parliament.nz.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'S. Stuart-Black', written in a cursive style.

Sarah Stuart-Black
Director, MCDEM