



New Zealand Fire Service

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10 February 2017

Mr Dean Rockwell

Email: fyi-request-5188-c5eadbcd@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Mr Rockwell

Official Information Request: Limiting fire loss to \$55 million annually for non-residential building

I am responding to your email of 8 January 2017 seeking information relating to the above-referenced performance measure which the New Zealand Fire Service Commission used for several years.

When this performance measure was introduced in 2007 the Commission used the estimated dollar value of property damage to monitor progress against its statutory mandate to protect property. The Commission discontinued using the performance measure at the end of the 2013/14 financial year. The main reason for doing so was because the measure had certain limitations most notably it reflected just the losses to the structures themselves and did not include contents or downstream economic or social losses.

Unfortunately, we have been unable to locate many of the background papers relating to the establishment of this performance measure and the relevant staff are no longer with us, which makes it difficult to provide specific answers to all your questions. We are, however, able to provide some reports which you may find of assistance. They are research reports that were commissioned around the time and are likely to have informed our thinking on this issue.

The reports concerned are 'The cost of managing the risk of fire in New Zealand' (BERL 2005), and 'Fire loss reduction in industrial buildings – risk cost benefit study', (BRANZ 2006). You may want to note that BERL has since published a further report in 2012 'The economic costs of fire in non-residential buildings' that identifies the factors to consider when calculating the economic costs of fires in non-residential buildings.

www.fire.org.nz

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Copies of all these research reports are electronically available through the Fire Service's web site.
For ease of reference, here are links to those reports:

[The cost of managing the risk of fire in New Zealand](#), BERL 2005

[The economic costs of fire in non-residential buildings](#) BERL report 2012

[Fire loss reduction in industrial buildings – risk cost benefit study](#), BRANZ 2006

I hope you find these reports of assistance.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Leigh Deuchars', is positioned below the text 'Yours sincerely'.

Leigh Deuchars
Director, Office of the Chief Executive