

16 May 2017

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New Zealand

Cody C
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Our ref: GSM 04067-048
By email

Dear Cody C

Official Information Act Request

Thank you for your email, dated 22 April 2017, in which you have requested the following information:

“Please provide information about the AIS capabilities of Maritime New Zealand (and, by extension, the Rescue Coordination Centre). This may include information such as coverage / range and other similarly available technical information.

Also, does Maritime New Zealand intend to expose the information gained from the reception of these AIS signals to the public (i.e. in the form of a website or API) given the public safety benefit that may be gained and the current Government focus towards ‘Open Data’ and ‘Transparency’ initiatives?”

The New Zealand Customs Service (NZ Customs) has a contract with Kordia Group Limited (Kordia) to provide global Automatic Identification System (AIS) data. Under the terms of the contract, the New Zealand Customs Service may distribute the feed and constituent data to a number of other government agencies, including Maritime NZ and the Rescue Coordination Centre NZ (RCCNZ).

The New Zealand coastal AIS data is acquired using Kordia's land based network of AIS receivers supplemented by satellite AIS data from Orbcomm; satellite and some terrestrial received AIS data for the rest of the world is acquired from Orbcomm as part of the contract with Kordia.

The data includes Class A, Class B, Aids to Navigation (AtoNs) and search and rescue transponder (SART) AIS transmissions.

Maritime NZ uses the information to coordinate maritime search and rescue activities and maritime incident response, assist maritime compliance activity and to analyse shipping behaviour around New Zealand and the South Pacific.

The terms of the contract with Kordia provide that NZ Customs and the other agencies that have a licence to use the data, such as Maritime NZ, may not distribute the constituent data in bulk format, or as a real-time or near real-time feed, to the public.

I hope that the above information has addressed your queries.

If you are dissatisfied with my response to your request, you can complain to the Ombudsman under section 28(3) of the Official Information Act. The Ombudsman's contact details can be found at: <http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz/>.

If you have any queries, please contact me at enquiries@maritimenz.govt.nz.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Emma Debreceny". The signature is written in a cursive style with a period at the end.

Emma Debreceny
Senior Advisor, Ministerial Services