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2 November 2017

Alan Thompson

By email: fyi-request-6568-56ece0e0@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Alan

Information Request – Port Hill Fires Operational Report

I am writing in relation to your information request dated 18 September 2017. You asked for:

- A copy of the draft report presented to the Stakeholders on/about mid-July; and
- A copy of the final report

The Operational Report is being finalised this week and we expect will be released tomorrow (3 November 2017). We recommend having a look on our website fireandemergency.nz for the information once it has been released.

We are therefore formally declining your request for the final report under section 18(d) of the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA), on the grounds it will soon be publicly available.

You also requested a draft copy of the draft Operational Review report. The Operational Review purpose was to closely examine the operations of the many fire agencies that were involved in the response to the Port Hills Fires and to recommend any actions to enhance the effectiveness and efficiency with which they carry out their responsibilities.

The Operational Review necessarily sought information from affected residents and other witnesses. This process was important to the Operational Review and releasing the draft report risks prejudicing the supply of the information provided during the course of the review (section 9(2)(ba)(i) of the OIA). It is also important that our review, and potential future reviews can be conducted and release of the draft report may prejudice measures protecting the health and safety of members of the public (section 9(2)(c) of the OIA).

We do not consider that the public interest in the draft Operational Review report is outweighed by these considerations.

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 or freephone 0800 802 602.

Yours sincerely

Leigh Deuchars
Director, Office of the Chief Executive