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Richard Clark

By email: [fyi-request-7931-df0ee70e@requests.fyi.org.nz](mailto:fyi-request-7931-df0ee70e@requests.fyi.org.nz)

Dear Richard

### **Information Request – NZ Localities changes list**

#### Information enclosed

I refer to your official information request dated 28 May 2018 for:

*Each distribution of the NZ Localities dataset contains an Excel spreadsheet with a summary list of the changes made in that release of the dataset. For example, the most recent release contains a file:*

*"NZL 2018\_2 - Summary Of Changes.xlsx"*

*Please provide a copy of each of these summary documents as distributed in all releases for the last 5 years.*

In accordance with the provisions of the Official Information Act 1982, I enclose a copy of the documents that you requested. I also set out the background to those documents, and the NZ Localities Dataset generally, **below**.

#### Background to NZ Localities Dataset

As set out in detail in my letter to you on 27 April 2018:

- The NZ Localities Dataset is a geospatial dataset made up of a number of GIS layers and auxiliary tables. It includes a layer of *locality* boundaries and names (localities are broadly the same as suburbs). The NZ Localities Dataset is designed to provide an accurate source of locality information for emergency responses (in the manner set out in my earlier email).
- The NZ Localities Dataset is integrated into the ICT software used at FENZ's emergency call centres to manage emergency calls and despatch emergency resources. FENZ and other emergency services providers rely on it:
  - a. to verify the location of emergency callers;

- b. to determine the particular resources that that should be used to appropriately respond to the emergency;
- c. to determine the appropriate station to despatch emergency services from (to achieve the fastest response time to the incident);
- d. to determine the fastest route of travel to the incident; and
- e. to ensure that other necessary emergency service agencies (such as ambulance and police) are also despatched to the appropriate location.

#### Background to Summary of Changes documents

FENZ encourages the wide use of the NZ Localities Dataset, and provides copies of it to the public free of charge.

FENZ also monitors the ongoing effectiveness of the NZ Localities Dataset for emergency response purposes. If feedback suggests that the NZ Localities Dataset requires change(s) to facilitate more effective and efficient emergency responses, FENZ makes those changes approximately once every calendar quarter.

As members of the public will have obtained copies of the NZ Localities Dataset from prior to FENZ making those changes, FENZ takes certain steps to mitigate the risk that the information relied on by the public may not reflect the information relied on by FENZ emergency centres when despatching emergency responses.<sup>1</sup>

In particular, after FENZ makes changes to the NZ Localities Dataset:

- a. FENZ circulates an updated version of the NZ Localities Dataset (which include the changes made since the previous circulation of the Dataset) to all parties that hold earlier versions of the Dataset.
- b. FENZ circulates a summary of the changes that have been made to the Dataset since the previous version was circulated – these are set out in a *Summary of Changes.xls* document. (Where no changes to the Dataset are made in a given quarter, FENZ does not issue an updated Dataset, nor a document summarising changes. This is why only 15 *Summary of Changes* documents are enclosed).
- c. After parties have received the updated version of the Dataset, they are required to use that, most recent, version of the Dataset - and to not use, or distribute, earlier versions of the Dataset.

In this way, FENZ ensures that, where the public relies on the NZ Localities Dataset, the information within it matches the information used by FENZ emergency contact centres when determining and deploying appropriate emergency response resources.

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<sup>1</sup> (The way that those recipients use the NZ Localities Dataset varies, but it can be used by callers to identify their location when they require emergency services)

We would be happy to answer any further question you may have. Additionally, if you would like a copy of the current version of the NZ Localities dataset, please contact [dsi-support@fireandemergency.nz](mailto:dsi-support@fireandemergency.nz) or 04-496 3600.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Leigh Deuchars', written in a cursive style.

Leigh Deuchars  
Director, Office of the Chief Executive

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