

13 JUL 2018

Jake Preston
fyi-request-8246-f99b439c@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Mr Preston

Official Information Act 1982 Request

Thank you for your request for information received on 5 July 2018. You requested that the Earthquake Commission (EQC) make available to you the following information under the Official Information Act 1982:

"I would like to request the research brief used to commission research paper 0380, along with all communication surrounding the development of the research brief for research paper 0380.

To be clear that includes all emails, notes of phone conversations and any other records which relate to the development of the research brief for research paper 0380, along with any communications surrounding any clarifications sought around research paper 0380.

In addition I see the Engineering Advisory Group was engaged by EQC in regards to this research. I would further request all communication surrounding the terms of engagement of the Engineering Advisory Group along with any clarification communication that took place surrounding their engagement"

Following the 4 September 2010 earthquake, EQC realised that the complexity and challenges related to damage to residential properties would require engineering guidance, in order to be adequately addressed. EQC sought the input and assistance from a group of structural engineers in October 2010. These were professionals with whom EQC had an established professional relationship with prior to the September event.

In a letter to Dave Brunson of Kestrel group on 2 October 2010, Dr Hugh Cowan outlined how he would like some focussed advice to be commissioned, on behalf of EQC. This began the formalisation of the engineering advisory group, and the terms of reference under which they would operate. The research paper 0380 *Guidance on house repairs and reconstruction following the Canterbury Earthquake* was included in these terms of reference as a principal output of the advisory group. There was no specific research brief developed for paper 0380, so your request for this is refused under section 18(e) of the Official Information Act 1982 *as the document alleged to contain the information requested does not exist or cannot be found.*

Please find attached the documents that support the steps EQC took to engage the engineering advisory group, including the development of research paper 0380.

Title	Date
Letter from Dr Hugh Cowan (EQC) to Dave Brunsdon (Kestrel Group)	2 October 2010
Letter from Dave Brunsdon to Dr Hugh Cowan	24 October 2010
Engineering Advisory Group Terms of Reference – Phase 1: Feasibility and Indicative Content	31 October 2010
Engineering Advisory Group Terms of Reference – Phase 2: Production of Guidance Document	1 November 2010
Draft Letter of Engagement for Consultant Members of the Engineering Advisory Group	29 October 2010
Letter from Dr Hugh Cowan (EQC) to David Kelly (DBH)	8 November 2010

Please note that some information has been withheld under section 9(2)(j) of the Official Information Act 1982 *to enable any organisation holding the information to carry on, without prejudice or disadvantage, negotiations (including commercial and industrial negotiations).*

This response completes your request for information. You have the right to ask the Ombudsman to investigate and review my decision. The Ombudsman can be contacted at PO Box 10 152, Wellington 6143, or on Freephone 0800 802 602, or at <http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz>.

Yours sincerely



Renée Walker

General Manager, Government Relations and Strategic Partnerships