

13 AUG 2018

Jake Preston
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Dear Mr Preston

Official Information Act 1982 Request – Communications Prior to the Establishment of the EAG

Thank you for your request for information received on 14 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 all notes, emails, minutes, and or file notes of discussions between Dave Brunson and Hugh Cowan prior to the establishment of the EAG?"

To be clear this includes any records of any discussions between Hugh Cowan and Dave Brunson prior to the establishment of the EAG"

Our records show that the first formal meeting of the Engineering Advisory Group (EAG) was held on 5 October 2010, therefore, we have used this as the date of the group's establishment for the purpose of responding to your request. Initial discussions between Hugh Cowan and Dave Brunson were focused on the provision of general engineering advice and expertise to EQC in the immediate aftermath of the September earthquake. Towards the end of September 2010, these discussions began to focus more on the establishment of an engineering advisory group to prepare technical guidance for engineers assessing and repairing damaged residential dwellings.

In response to your request please refer to the material in the attached document. Please note that information that falls outside of the scope of your request has been removed from the material and that some information has been withheld under:

- section 9(2)(a) of the Official Information Act 1982 to *protect the privacy of natural persons*
- section 9(2)(g)(ii) of the Official Information Act 1982 to *maintain the effective conduct of public affairs through the free and frank of expression... between members of an organisation or officers and employees of any department or organisation in the course of their duty*
- section 9(2)(j) 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

Deputy Chief Executive, Canterbury and External Affairs