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11 September 2018

Alan Thompson
Lower Hutt

By email: fyi-request-8395-65b94276@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Alan

Information Request – Makara Fire Chatham Islands

I refer to your official information request dated 27 July 2018 asking for the following information about the Makara Fire, Chatham Islands:

- *The documentation that FENZ has (eg correspondence, memorandum, meeting minutes, notes, etc within the FENZ Management Team that sets out the basis for an Independent Operational Review of the Makara Fire. This documentation should include the supporting arguments, recommendations and/or decision not to undertake such a formal and independent review.*
- *Copies of the Incident Action Reports (IAPs) for the duration of the fire; and*
- *A map overlay of the final extent of the fire (if not included in the IAPs).*

The decision not to initiate an operational review for the Makara Fire was made during a verbal conversation between Fire and Emergency's Rural Managers. While the fire was expensive due to its remote location and burnt a large area, resources deployed on any one day were not significantly large and operations surrounding on-ground fire strategy and tactics were not particularly complex.

The Formal Debrief gave staff involved with the fire an opportunity to share their experiences and through that process a number of areas for improvement were identified. On balance, it was felt it wasn't necessary to undertake an Operational Review as well. Your request for documentation is declined under section 18(e) of the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA) as no documentation exists.

I have attached copies of the Incident Action Reports for each day of the fire. Some information has been redacted under section 9(2)(a) of the OIA to protect the privacy of individuals identified in the report.

Also attached is a copy of the map overlay.

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

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

Bella Sutherland
Acting Director, Office of the Chief Executive

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