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18 December 2018

Peter Samuals
By email: fyi-request-8932-9be17c5e@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Peter

Information Request – Complaints made against Newlands Volunteer Fire Brigade

I refer to your official information request dated 24 October 2018 asking for information relating to misconduct complaints against the Newlands Volunteer Fire Brigade, Brigade volunteers/chief and previous Brigade volunteers dated from the 1st January 2015 to the 24th October 2018.

On 20 November 2018 you were advised that an extension was necessary to respond to your request. Your request has now been assessed in accordance with the provisions of the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA).

Fire and Emergency has identified ten complaints against volunteers and staff of the Newlands Volunteer Fire Brigade that were received during the specified time period. To protect the privacy of natural persons all information in relation to these complaints is withheld under Section 9(2)(a) of the OIA.

Due to the number of volunteers in the Newlands Volunteer Fire Brigade, Fire and Emergency considers that releasing further information about the complaints could identify individuals. Fire and Emergency does not consider that the withholding of information is outweighed by other considerations that render it desirable in the public interest to make information available.

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. Note also that this response (with your personal details removed) may be published on the Fire and Emergency website.

Yours sincerely



Bella Sutherland
Director, Office of the Chief Executive