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8 February 2019

Alan Thompson  
Lower Hutt

By email: [fyi-request-9101-dda05ff0@requests.fyi.org.nz](mailto:fyi-request-9101-dda05ff0@requests.fyi.org.nz)

Dear Alan

### Information Request – Aircraft Costs for Rural Fires

I refer to your official information request received 23 November 2018 asking for the following information:

1. For the ten-year period prior to 2017, how many Rural Fire Authority applications were made each year to the NRFA Rural Fire Fighting Fund
2. How many of these RFF Fund applications included aircraft services costs that were more than 55% of the total fire suppression costs, and
3. What was the date, fire name, total suppression cost and the aircraft costs for each of the fires meeting these criteria.

On 17 December 2018, Fire and Emergency advised that it was necessary to extend the time limit for responding to your request. The information compiled to answer questions 2 and 3 was manually searched to respond to your request.

Please find below a table summarising the number of applications received and those where aircraft services made up more than 55 percent of the total cost of suppression. The response to Question 3 is attached. Please note that some redactions have been made to protect the privacy of natural persons under section 9(2)(a) of the Official Information Act 1982.

Year	Total claims	Over 55% aircraft cost
07/08	135	56
08/09	75	19
09/10	93	15
10/11	83	17
11/12	47	11
12/13	94	23
13/14	95	30
14/15	119	26
15/16	117	44
16/17	117	33
<b>Total</b>	<b>975</b>	<b>274</b>

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](http://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

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Bella Sutherland', with a large, stylized flourish extending to the right.

Bella Sutherland  
Director, Office of the Chief Executive

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