



13 June 2019

[Redacted]

Reference: OIA-2018/19-0648

Dear [Redacted]

Official Information Act request relating to the Pigeon Valley Fire of 2019

Thank you for your Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) request received on 24 May 2019. You requested, in relation to the Pigeon Valley Fire:

...a copy of the debrief report as prepared by MCDEM. This should include all records of the debrief meetings held, the analysis, the findings and the recommendations resulting from the debriefs..."

I appreciate the interest yourself and many others have in the debrief report, which the Ministry of Civil Defence & Emergency Management (MCDEM) refer to as 'post event reports'. Since the 16 November 2016 Kaikōura earthquake and tsunami MCDEM routinely publishes post event reports on its website, once finalised. Accordingly, I am formally refusing this part of your request for the documents under section 18(d) of the Act, as the information requested is or will soon be publicly available.

With regard to your request for "all records of the debrief meetings", I have taken this to be for the raw feedback received during debrief meetings. I have decided to withhold this information in full under section 9(2)(g)(i) of the Act, in order to maintain the effective conduct of public affairs through the free and frank expression of opinion. I would note however that themes of the feedback are incorporated into the report. In making this decision, I have taken the public interest considerations in section 9(1) of the Act into account.

You have the right to ask the Ombudsman to investigate and review my decision under section 28(3) of the Act.

This response will be published on the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet's website during our regular publication cycle. Typically, information is released monthly, or as otherwise determined. Your personal information, including name and contact details, will be removed for publication.

Yours sincerely

[Redacted Signature]

Sarah Stuart-Black
Executive Director, Ministry of Civil Defence & Emergency Management