



24 August 2023



Ref: OIA-2023/24-0040

Dear 

Official Information Act request relating to documents detailing the work of the Ministerial Advisory Committee on Emergency Management

Thank you for your Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) request received on 19 July 2023. You requested:

“I am currently conducting some research on the role of iwi in disaster management and recovery at the University of Canterbury. From this, I have a request for information from the National Emergency Management Agency. It as follows;

Are there any documents available detailing the work of the MINISTERIAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT, established in 2021. This could specifically take the form of either meeting minutes or preferably, advice given to the minister by the committee.”

On 16 August 2023, we wrote to you extending the time limit for response by six working days, to 24 August 2023. The additional time was needed to complete consultations before a final decision was made on your request. Thank you for your patience as we processed your request. I am now in a position to respond.

Information about the Ministerial Advisory Committee Management, is available on the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) website at:

www.civildefence.govt.nz/resources/news-and-events/news-and-events/the-ministerial-advisory-committee-on-emergency-management

You will find the terms of reference for the committee here:

www.civildefence.govt.nz/assets/Uploads/News/MINISTERIAL_ADVISORY_COMMITTEE_TERMS_OF_REFERENCE_June2021.pdf

To the extent your request is for the information set out above, it is declined under section 18(d) of the Act as the information is publicly available.

The work of the Ministerial Advisory Committee has largely consisted of work on the Emergency Management Bill 2023. This Bill is currently before Parliament. Public submissions are now being called for on the Bill. The information that may fall within scope of your request relating to work on the Bill is currently under active consideration.

Therefore, your request for information relating to the Bill is declined under section 9(2)(f)(iv) of the Act, to maintain the confidentiality of advice tendered by Ministers of the Crown and officials.

You can read more about the Bill here:

www.parliament.nz/en/pb/sc/make-a-submission/document/53SCGA_SCF_0D1391E5-198F-44B9-8670-08DB66E3A6BF/emergency-management-bill.

Please be advised, that once the Bill has finished its ascent through the Parliamentary process, this information will become available online.

In making my decision, I have considered the public interest considerations in section 9(1) of the Act. No public interest has been identified that would be sufficient to override the reasons for withholding that information.

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 both NEMA's and 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 prior to publication.

Yours sincerely



Anthony Richards
Chief Advisor to the Deputy Chief Executive, Emergency Management