



25 June 2025

[REDACTED]

Reference: OIA-2024/25-0928

Tēnā koe [REDACTED],

Official Information Act request relating to Consultation on Strengthening New Zealand's Emergency Management Legislation

Thank you for your Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) request received on 25 May 2025. You requested:

"[1] all submissions received on the "Discussion Document: Strengthening New Zealand's Emergency Management Legislation"

*[1a] to include public submissions up and until 21 May 2025, and
[1b] final submissions made by stakeholder/government agencies or other organisations prior to the public consultation phase.*

[2] Additionally, please also supply any analysis data and reports that evidence how the public version of the discussion document was formulated

[3] a copy of the related project plan be supplied."

For ease of reference, I have numbered and reformatted the parts of your request above.

Part 1

Part 1a of your request is refused under section 18(d) of the Act as the submissions will soon be publicly available here: <https://www.civildefence.govt.nz/cdem-sector/legislation/emergency-management-bill>.

Part 1b of your request is refused under section 18(g) of the Act as no submissions by other agencies, stakeholders, or organisations that predate the consultation period are held by NEMA, and I do not have reason to believe that these would be held by another agency or minister that is subject to the Act.

Part 2

On 30 May you clarified that the second part of your request is for, *"a report (or product) [...] that analysed the previous submissions (to the withdrawn EM Bill) and subsequent stakeholder input through a qualitative analysis/ethnographic content analysis or similar to ensure policy advice and recommendations are structured and evidence based."*

You further advised that, *"It would be helpful to understand what documents were used following the withdrawal of the EM Bill (2024) to inform the development of the Discussion*

Document. For example, was a robust analysis using an accepted methodology used (simple spreadsheet thematic analysis, SPSS data sets), were submissions and feedback analyzed using AI, or was it organically written etc.”

While submissions on the withdrawn Bill informed the development of the subsequent Discussion Document, I can advise that no standalone report was prepared regarding these earlier submissions, nor was a formal methodology employed. Instead, analysis was conducted using preparatory, table-based approaches.

Officials created thematic tables to collate the issues raised, intended to inform a Departmental Report for the 2024 Bill. However, as the Bill was ultimately withdrawn, this Report was not required. Thematic consolidation was therefore limited to two tables: one outlining substantive policy issues, and the other capturing potential rewrite issues for future reference. These thematic tables were designed for internal use and preparatory purposes only.

In addition to submissions on the withdrawn Bill, the Discussion Document was also informed by reports generated from related inquiries and reviews, such as the NISWE Inquiry and TAG Review:

- [Government Inquiry into the Response to the North Island Severe Weather Events - dia.govt.nz](https://dia.govt.nz)
- [Ministerial Review: Better Responses to Natural Disasters and Other Emergencies in New Zealand | Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet \(DPMC\)](#).

Part 3

I note that while there is a project plan for the Emergency Management Bill itself, no discrete project plan for the Discussion Document exists. I am therefore refusing this part of your request under section 18(e) of the Act.

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.

Nāku noa, nā,



Stefan Weir
Chief of Staff