



25 August 2025



Reference: OIA-2025/26-0107

Tēnā koe [redacted],

**Official Information Act request relating to Negative communications addressed to Dave Gawn about the issuance of Emergency Management Alerts**

Thank you for your Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) request received on 11 August 2025. You requested:

*“...all records where an expression of regret, frustration, sadness, or disappointment regarding the issuance of either / both alerts (those issued on 30-31 July 2025) was expressed to Dave Gawn.*

*If you consider this request is too broad or too time consuming, I would appreciate you responding with suggestions / ideas to assist me in refining my request.”*

We have interpreted your request as seeking all communications (including emails, letters, phone calls, text messages, and Signal messages) addressed to Dave Gawn that expressed dissatisfaction or disagreement with the issuance of either or both alerts on 30 and 31 July 2025. We note that the nature of any response to your present request, similar to that of your previous request on a related matter, is highly subjective, requiring as it does an interpretation of the tone and intent of the communications received.

**Information to be refused**

A search of Mr Gawn’s phone has not identified any relevant text or Signal messages. For completeness, we note that the messages located were supportive of the issuance of the alerts, as were the phone calls Mr Gawn received from officials.

With regards to emails, Mr Gawn was forwarded a copy of a letter that a correspondent had originally sent to the Minister for Emergency Management, Hon Mark Mitchell, which contained recommendations on how to improve the alert system. He was also copied into another email sent to the Minister for Emergency Management in which a member of the public expressed disagreement with and criticism of the second alert. As these communications were not addressed to Mr Gawn, we do not consider them to fall within the scope of your request.

Accordingly, your request is refused under section 18(e) of the Act, as the information requested does not exist or, despite reasonable efforts, cannot be found.

You may be interested to read Mr Gawn’s opinion piece on Stuff: <https://www.stuff.co.nz/nz-news/360778540/dave-gawn-public-safety-non-negotiable-when-we-make-decisions-send-emergency-alerts>.

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,



Sarah Holland  
**Chief Advisor to the Chief Executive  
National Emergency Management Agency**