




19 September 2025



Reference: OIA-2025/26-0172

Tēnā koe 

Official Information Act request for copies of training records and competency assessments of staff who had authority to draft, approve or publish an emergency alert as of 31 July 2025

Thank you for your Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) request received on 2 September 2025. You requested:

“Regarding part 3 of my request, noting your refusal under the OIA, I would like to request the same information as I did previously but to clarify that the information can be anonymised to prevent any concerns under the sections of the OIA that you cited. In short, I am seeking records that evidence that staff with the authority to exercise the authority to issue emergency alerts at the end of July 2025 had sufficient training to do so. The names of these individuals, nor any other identifying information, is unnecessary to fulfil this request. I consider demonstrating that staff who can exercise this significant authority are sufficiently trained to be in the public interest.”

I have decided to release the validation schedule for all Monitoring Alerting and Reporting (MAR) staff, subject to information being withheld under section 9(2)(g)(ii) of the Act, to prevent improper pressure or harassment.

I can confirm that Watch Leaders within the 24/7 MAR Centre are authorised to issue Emergency Mobile Alerts (EMAs). Watch Leaders are staff who have experience as MAR Watch Officers and who have been assessed as having the requisite skills to lead the on-shift team through an event, in accordance with standard operating procedures.

All MAR staff undertake simulated tsunami drills at least once a week, and more frequently when the operational tempo allows. A drill is also conducted weekly in conjunction with the 24/7 National Geohazard Monitoring Centre, Earth Sciences New Zealand. Debriefs are conducted following all drills and live events to ensure continuous improvement.

MAR Watch Leaders participate in these drills and are revalidated every three months under a formal assessment process to ensure they are current and competent. Both Watch Leaders who issued the EMAs on 30 July and 31 July 2025 were current in their validation. Post action reviews have confirmed they followed the correct procedures for the issuing of the EMAs and demonstrated strong leadership in a situation where lives were at risk.

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 outweigh 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 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**

Day	Wednesday, 9 April 2025	Monday, 14 April 2025	Wednesday, 16 April 2025	Monday, 28 April 2025	Wednesday, 30 April 2025
Timeframe	1430 - 1600	1330 - 1500	1430 - 1600	1330 - 1500	1430 - 1600
Watch Leader Validation		Watch Leader		Watch Leader	Watch Leader Relief
Publisher Validation	Watch officer	Watch Leader Relief		Watch Leader Relief	Watch officer
Intelligence Validation	Watch officer	Watch officer		Watch officer	Watch Leader
Excon	Excon #1	Excon #1	Excon #1	Excon #1	Excon #1
	Completed	Completed	Rescheduled	Completed	Rescheduled

Day	Monday, 5 May 2025	Wednesday, 7 May 2025	Monday, 12 May 2025	Wednesday, 14 May 2025	Monday, 19 May 2025
Timeframe	1330 - 1500	1430 - 1600	1330 - 1500	1430 - 1600	1330 - 1500
Watch Leader Validation		Watch Leader Relief	Watch Leader		Watch Leader
Publisher Validation		Watch officer	Watch officer		
Intelligence Validation		Watch officer			Watch officer
Excon	Excon #1	Excon #1	Excon #1	Excon #1	Excon #1
	Rescheduled.	Completed	Completed		Completed

Day	Wednesday, 21 May 2025	Wednesday, 28 May 2025	Wednesday, 4 June 2025	Monday, 9 June 2025	Wednesday, 11 June 2025
Timeframe	1430 - 1600	1430 - 1600	1430 - 1600	1330 - 1500	1430 - 1600
Watch Leader Validation	s9(2)(g)(ii)				
Publisher Validation				Watch officer	s9(2)(g)(ii)
Intelligence Validation				Watch officer	
Excon	Excon #2	s9(2)(g)(ii)	s9(2)(g)(ii)	Excon #3	Excon #1
	Completed			completed	

Day	Wednesday, 18 June 2025	Monday, 23 June 2025	Wednesday, 25 June 2025	Monday, 30 June 2025	Monday, 7 July 2025
Timeframe	1430 - 1600	1330 - 1500	1430 - 1600	1330 - 1500	1330 - 1500
Watch Leader Validation					
Publisher Validation	s9(2)(g)(ii)				Watch Leader Relief
Intelligence Validation					Watch officer
Excon	Excon #1	Excon #1	Excon #1	Excon #1	Excon #1
	Completed	Cancelled	Cancelled	cancelled	Cancelled

Day	Wednesday, 9 July 2025	Monday, 14 July 2025	Wednesday, 16 July 2025
Timeframe	1430 - 1600	1330 - 1500	1430 - 1600
Watch Leader Validation			
Publisher Validation	Watch officer	Watch Leader Relief	Watch officer
Intelligence Validation	Watch officer		Watch Leader Relief
Excon	Excon #1	Excon #1	Excon #1
	completed	Cancelled	Cancelled

Completed MAR Staff Validation Status -			
Staff Member	Watch Leader	Publisher	Intelligence
Watch Leader	✓		
Watch Leader Relief		✓	
Watch officer			✓
Watch officer		✓	✓
Watch officer		✓	✓
Watch Leader	✓		
Watch Leader Relief	✓		
Watch officer			✓
Watch officer		✓	✓
Watch officer		✓	
Watch officer		✓	
Watch officer			
Watch Leader	✓		✓
Watch Leader Relief	✓	✓	
Watch officer		✓	✓
Watch officer		✓	✓
Watch officer			