



15 February 2024

[Redacted]

Ref: OIA-2023/24-0459

Dear [Redacted]

Official Information Act request relating to your request for communications regarding Cyclone Gabrielle

Thank you for your Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) request received on 25 January 2024. You requested:

*“All text and email communications with staff or representatives of the Hawkes Bay Regional Council and Hawkes Bay Civil Defence Emergency Management Group regarding Cyclone Gabrielle, from February 12-15 2023
All text and email communications with the NZ Defense Force regarding Cyclone Gabrielle from February 12-15 2023*

If you need any more information from me please let me know as soon as possible. I understand that a decision on a request for information under the OIA should be made within 20 working days of receiving that request. As this is for a time-sensitive article with a high degree of public interest I'm requesting that it be treated as urgent.”

Our review of information that is likely to be within scope of your request shows the quantity of information involved is significant and extensive. For example, it appears that the communication with 30 to 40 or more different agencies is involved, and that the steps required to collate this information would be substantial. The review indicates that neither an extension of timeframes nor charging for collation would facilitate the collation exercise.

We also considered whether a refinement of the request would expedite the request, but given the nature of the information we determined it would not.

Due to these considerations, I am refusing your request pursuant to s18(f) of the Act - that the information requested cannot be made available without substantial collation or research.

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

Yours sincerely

[Redacted Signature]

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