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Tēnā koe Phil

Official Information Act request: Archives Collection Search, storage and new building

Thank you for your email, received on 23 November 2022, requesting the following information in relation to Te Rua Mahara o te Kāwanatanga Archives New Zealand's Collections Search tool, storage and the new building:

1. Re the new archives bldg. in Wellington, how much space is there in it for the transfer of archives from govt depts?
 - a. Is it expected more space will be needed for this?
 - b. Is there a plan to provide more space, and if so pls outline it
 - c. Does archives have any other land or buildings or other assets it foresees or plans to use for this?
 2. In the new bldg., is there going to be a reading room/s on the premises? If not, why not?
 3. Pls release the latest 2 briefings to any Minister about Archives and its Collection Search and/or archives storage
 4. Pls release the latest substantive internal report about Archives and its Collection Search and/or archives storage
 5. Pls release a summary of the investigation report, its findings and recommendations re the issues that culminated in the shutdown of the Collection search system in mid-Nov
- 1. *Re the new archives bldg. in Wellington, how much space is there in it for the transfer of archives from govt depts?***

Once archives from the existing Archives building have been moved into the new building, there will be a small amount of shelving space left for transfers that will be high-use, or require a high level of staff intervention to enable access. It is not yet known exactly how much space will be left.

Kia pono ai te rua Mahara – Enabling trusted government information

a. Is it expected more space will be needed for this?

Yes.

b. Is there a plan to provide more space, and if so pls outline it

Archives New Zealand, the National Library and Ngā Taonga Sound & Vision are working together to understand the additional storage capacity that they will need. A collections management strategy is being developed to understand what will be collected in the future, in what format it will be collected, and where it will need to be stored. This will inform a national property strategy, which will look at how to best use our current property portfolio and meet future storage needs.

c. Does archives have any other land or buildings or other assets it foresees or plans to use for this?

Archives New Zealand has four repositories in Auckland, Wellington, Christchurch and Dunedin, all with varying capacity remaining for new transfers of government records, as well as some space remaining in facilities shared with Ngā Taonga Sound & Vision for audio-visual material. Land has been purchased in Taitoko Levin with provisional plans for a Regional Shared Repository, providing additional storage capacity for Archives, the National Library, Ngā Taonga and Muaūpoko Tribal Authority (the mana whenua iwi of Taitoko).

2. In the new bldg., is there going to be a reading room/s on the premises? If not, why not?

The new Archives building will have a Reading Room specifically for physical access to large-format archives such as maps, plans and artworks, seating about 24 researchers. However, the main Reading Room for Archives will be in the National Library building, in a space that is also shared with the National Library and Ngā Taonga.

3. Pls release the latest 2 briefings to any Minister about Archives and its Collection Search and/or archives storage

See the table of documents provided. We assume that your question here relates to Collections Search and associated digital storage.

4. Pls release the latest substantive internal report about Archives and its Collection Search and/or archives storage

The latest report about Collections Search is the AIMS IMT Situation report #5 23 November, as shown in the table below. We assume that your question here relates to Collections Search and associated digital storage. Note that the release mentioned in the Situation report #5 will not happen until January. We want to be sure that the release has been fully tested and will not generate further any further issues. It is important that users have full access to Collections Search over the holiday period when use is likely to be high.

5. Pls release a summary of the investigation report, its findings and recommendations re the issues that culminated in the shutdown of the Collection search system in mid-Nov

The issues that culminated in the shutdown of the Collections Search system in mid-November are described in the following documents that are being released to you:

- the Ministerial briefing and papers released in the previous OIA
- the Ministerial briefing on standing up an IMT in November
- the AIMS IMT Situation report #5 23 November
- the Chief Archivist’s statement on the Archives New Zealand website.

The following documents have been provided in response to your request:

Question	Document	Page	Redactions
3 & 5	Briefing: AIMS and Collection Search 28 October (released in previous OIA 13/12/2022)	1	Personal information 9(2)(a)
3 & 5	Briefing: Standing up an IMT	6	Personal information 9(2)(a)
4 & 5	AIMS IMT Situation report #5 23 November (update of SitRep 1-4) (earlier version released in previous OIA 13/12/2022) Note that while the Situation report mentions that six files were incorrectly marked as “open”, only three were accessed by a member of the public	12	Personal information 9(2)(a)

Please note that as the Department’s response provides information that is identified to be of public interest, the response will be published on the Department of Internal Affairs’ (DIA) website. All personal information, including your name and contact details will be removed.

You have the right under section 28 of the OIA to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this decision. Information about how to make a complaint can be found at <https://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz/> or freephone 0800 802 602.

Ngā mihi, nā



Anahera Morehu
Chief Archivist