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Fire and Emergency New Zealand
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5 July 2023

Phil Pennington
RNZ
By email: Phil.Pennington@rnz.co.nz

Tēnā koe Phil

Information Request – MDRS/housing intensification

I refer to your official information request dated 14 June 2023 asking for the following information:

Any communications, advice, reports etc - that is, any advice or similar in whatever format - related to MDRS/housing intensification and any and all problems arising in providing fire and other emergency services, that FENZ or its agents provided to the government (any portfolio or agency) in the lead-up to the MDRS law/reg changes of 2022

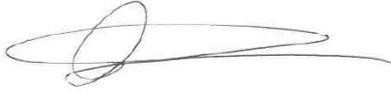
Your request has been assessed in accordance with the provisions of the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA). We are interpreting your request broadly as asking for any advice we have provided any government portfolio or agency regarding the consequences of housing intensification law or regulation changes on the delivery of Fire and Emergency New Zealand emergency services. We are taking a broad approach because there have been several different law and regulation changes regarding intensification that occurred around 2022.

In response to your request, we enclose one document containing a submission we provided to the Ministry of Business, Innovation, and Employment (MBIE) on the Building Code update 2022 – Protection from Fire. See especially our advice on Proposal 1, which details our concern with housing intensification. Some personal information has been withheld to protect the privacy of natural persons under section 9(2)(a) of the OIA. We do not consider that there is a public interest in the release of the information which outweighs withholding it.

We also note that on 27 July 2022 some members of Fire and Emergency met with members of Building System Performance, the part of MBIE responsible for managing NZ building laws and regulations that protect public safety and property. During this meeting, Fire and Emergency gave the presentation that we already released to you on 12 June 2023 about the challenges of emergency response.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this decision. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or freephone 0800 802 602.

Nāku noa nā



Julia McCook-Weir
Manager, Information Requests

