

30 November 2023

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Your Official Information Act request ref: HNZ00029974

Thank you for your request for information on 14 September 2023 asking for the following which has been considered under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

Just wondering if you've heard anything about the review into the Te Whatu Ora response to Cyclone Gabrielle?

I apologise for the delay in providing our response. The time taken is not what we aspire to. This is something we are working to get on top of, in the context of being a new organisation and dealing with a high volume of requests, given the understandably high public interest in our work.

Please see attached the following documents in scope of your request:

- Te Whatu Ora Executive Leadership Memo, Cyclone Gabrielle Post Incident Report Recommendations
- Te Ika-a-Māui Weather Events 2023, Post Incident Review Report
- Moana Connect, Draft Report, Te Whatu Ora Rapid Insights – Pacific Emergency Response Reflections
- Te Whatu Ora Memo to Margie Apa, Chief Executive, Cyclone Gabrielle Weather-event review

Because these severe weather incidents happened at a time when key national and regional roles were still being established, lines of communications between districts, regions and national teams were also affected. While it was unforeseeable that these events hit Aotearoa during a time of significant change and restructure for Te Whatu Ora, this context is important as many of the learnings are as a direct result of this timing.

The Post Incident Review found Te Whatu Ora's response to the cyclone was effective overall but that some improvements could be made.

Te Whatu Ora's Emergency Management Team has included what was learnt from the review in its national work plan.

Some information is withheld under section 9(2)(ba)(i) of the Act as it is subject to an obligation of confidence, and if released, could prejudice the supply of similar information in the future. We have also withheld information under section 9(2)(g)(i) of the Act to protect the effective conduct of public affairs through the free and frank expression of opinions. Releasing the information would mean that the relevant staff might not be willing to convey their unguarded opinions in future, which is a core part of their role.

How to get in touch

If you have any questions, you can contact us at hnzOIA@health.govt.nz. If you are not happy with this response, you have the right to make a complaint to the Ombudsman. Information about how to do this is available at [Ombudsman New Zealand | Tari o te Kaitiaki Mana Tangata](#) or by phoning 0800 802 602.

Again, my apologies for the delay in providing this response. I hope the information is useful to you.

Nāku iti noa, nā



Sue Gordon (she/her)

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People and Communications

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Te Kāwanatanga o Aotearoa
New Zealand Government