



23 April 2020



Reference: OIA-2019/20-0437 and
OIA-2019/20-0452

Dear 

Official Information Act requests relating to meetings with Deaf Aotearoa

Thank you for your Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) requests received on 1 and 5 April 2020. Your requests both addressed in this response and are copied below:

1 April 2020:

"...a copy of the minutes from annual meetings between Civil defence and Deaf Aotearoa (DPO) in regard to CDEM plan related to Deaf in New Zealand, from 2015 up to the last meeting..."

5 April 2020:

"...copies of all the minutes for meetings between NEMA and Deaf Aotearoa (Deaf DPO) related to the covid19 2020 CDEM..."

With regard to your request of 1 April 2020, I must advise you that as bilateral meetings between the National Emergency Management Agency (formally known as the Ministry of Civil Defence & Emergency Management) and Deaf Aotearoa have taken the form of regular, non-scheduled discussions, minutes are not taken. I also note that the Memorandum of Understanding with Deaf Aotearoa was signed in 2018, so there was no provision for annual meetings in prior years. If you have not already seen it, this Memorandum of Understanding can be found online at the following address: www.civildefence.govt.nz/resources/news-and-events/news/deaf-communities-to-get-better-emergency-information

I am therefore formally refusing your request under section 18(e) of the Act, as the information you have requested does not exist. However, I have attached a copy of a letter sent by the National Emergency Management Agency to Deaf Aotearoa, which you may find helpful as a summary of how we work together.

With regard to your request of 5 April 2020 for copies of meeting minutes with Deaf Aotearoa related to COVID-19, I must again advise that no meetings have taken place, and that I am formally refusing this part of your request under section 18(e) of the Act. The National Emergency Management Agency has however stayed in contact with Deaf Aotearoa regarding COVID-19 and the State of National Emergency through regular discussions.

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 their 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.

Yours sincerely



Carolyn Schwalger
Chief Executive, National Emergency Management Agency