



17 August 2020



Reference: OIA-2020/21-0056

Dear 

Official Information Act request regarding claims made to the National Emergency Management Agency relating to the response to COVID-19

Thank you for your request made under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), received by the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (DPMC) on 30 July 2020. I am responding as your request relates to the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA), which is a departmental Agency hosted within DPMC. You requested (numbering added):

1. *how much money has been billed to the National Emergency Management Agency from regional covid defence responses?*
2. *how much each region has claimed,*
3. *what do the claims relate to*
4. *how much has been paid out*

I have taken your request to be for the number of claims received by NEMA. As at 30 July 2020, 127 claims had been recorded as received, for a total amount of approximately \$27,659,613.81. I would note however that these figures reflect the raw data for this date; some claims were still undergoing review, and some are in the process of being resubmitted as a combined claim. Accordingly, both the number of claims and combined total are indicative figures only.

A breakdown of how much each region had claimed as at 30 July 2020 is below. As stated above, the amounts given are indicative figures only. To date, \$10.571M has been approved and paid out.

Region	Amount
Auckland	10,678,557.91
Bay of Plenty	770,559.89
Canterbury	895,336.27
Chatham Islands	72,477.86
Hawke's Bay	959,440.34
Manawatū-Whanganui	1,463,629.76
Marlborough	124,573.92
Nelson Tasman	744,018.83

Northland	1,667,703.49
Otago	3,222,694.42
Southland	124,306.70
Tairāwhiti	830,988.05
Taranaki	827,102.58
Waikato	3,593,274.96*
Wellington Region	1,622,685.95
West Coast	62,262.88
Total	27,659,613.81

*This figure includes claims that are due to be resubmitted and is therefore an indicative amount only.

With regard to your third question, information regarding what the claims relate to is outlined in section 33.4.1 (page 273) of the Guide to the National Civil Defence Emergency Management Plan 2015, which can be found through the following link: <https://www.civildefence.govt.nz/cdem-sector/plans-and-strategies/guide-to-the-national-civil-defence-emergency-management-plan/> (revised 26 March 2020).

In addition to the eligible costs outlined in the Guide, the Government agreed to provide further funding through a new appropriation of \$30M. This new appropriation is separate to the funding outlined in the amended Guide for meeting costs incurred in delivering support. This means that local authorities and Civil Defence Emergency Management (CDEM) Groups are required to submit claims for reimbursement against the two welfare support arrangements: section 33 of the Guide, and the new appropriation.

The new appropriation was established to enable the reimbursement of costs incurred by local authorities and CDEM Groups in relation to support to people who have immediate welfare needs attributable to the impact of COVID-19, where these needs cannot be met by other sources of support. It also supports non-government and community-based organisations (including foodbanks) to meet the costs associated with sourcing, stocking, preparing and delivering household goods and supplies to people who have immediate needs attributable to the impact of COVID-19, where these needs cannot be met by other sources of support.

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 DPMC's website during the 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