



18 June 2024



Reference: OIA-2023/24-0936 and OIA-2023/24-0937

Dear 

Official Information Act request relating to disaster alerts

Thank you for your Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) request received on 21 May 2024. You requested:

"I am a New Zealand citizen who has been living in NZ for many years. I would appreciate it if you could advise me on these matters which I am very interested in to find out.

As far as I know, your entity seems to be one of the NZ government entities that has the legal authority to give out the nation-wide or regional alert to the public people, when the relevant disaster happens. According to my online research, there seem to be 3 ways that we can obtain these alerts and alerts updates: by an alert mobile APP, by listening to major NZ radio program or watching TV, and by searching on relevant websites and media.

My questions are:

- 1. Are these above-mentioned ways the currently available ways for us to receive your alerts? Or do you have any other ways that I am not aware of?*
 - 2. Do we public people have some back-up methods if in case these above-mentioned ways become ineffective? (e.g if I were driving somewhere that my mobile phone and radio would be out of signal coverage range, or my TV and internet would lose signal because of the accident. etc.)*
 - 3. As for your entity, is the cost of building the alert system coming from 100% NZ government financial allocation or from other resources?*
- Thank you and Kind regards, "*

We also refer to your request received on 28 May 2024. You requested:

"I would highly appreciate your advice on my enquiries:

- 1. Currently in NZ, are there totally 5 methods that our National Emergency System uses to give nationwide or regional alerts to the public? e.g. by mobile phone alert, by some radio stations, by some media or websites on the internet, by cable TV or digital internet TV? Are there any other methods other than the above-mentioned ones?*
- 2. Are our NZ National Emergency System and NEMA exclusively and fully funded by our NZ government's financial allocation funds?*

The National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) is responsible for issuing national emergency updates and tsunami warnings. NEMA publish tsunami warnings and national

emergency updates on www.civildefence.govt.nz and the @nzcivildefence X (formerly Twitter) channel.

For local emergency updates, people can check their council's website, as well as their local Civil Defence Emergency Management (CDEM) Group's website and social media.

The following radio networks work collaboratively with CDEM authorities to broadcast important information and advice in an emergency:

- Radio New Zealand (AM and FM frequencies)
- MoreFM (FM frequencies)
- NewstalkZB (AM and FM frequencies)
- Today FM (AM and FM frequencies)
- The Hits (FM frequencies)

Severe Weather Outlooks, Watches and Warnings are issued by MetService, Te Ratonga Tīrangi, New Zealand's National Weather Service. You can stay up to date with the latest weather information through the MetService website and mobile App.

NEMA, CDEM Groups and other authorised agencies issue Emergency Mobile Alerts when there is a serious threat to life, health or property. You can find out more at: <https://getready.govt.nz/en/prepared/stay-informed/emergency-mobile-alert>

Emergency Mobile Alerts are not meant to replace other emergency alerts or the need to take action after natural warnings. People still need to prepare for an emergency, and they should not wait to get an alert before they act. If people feel their life is in danger, they should not wait for an official warning, but take immediate action.

A range of channels are used to keep people informed during emergencies. You can find out more at <https://getready.govt.nz/en/prepared/stay-informed>.

NEMA is funded by the New Zealand Government. In addition to NEMA, New Zealand's emergency management system includes agencies and partners who have their own funding arrangements, such as emergency services, local government, non-governmental organisations, lifeline utilities, research and science institutions, and iwi.

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 our 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



Stefan Weir
Chief of Staff
National Emergency Management Agency