



21 February 2023

HUD2023-001621

s 9(2)(a)

Dear s 9(2)(a)

Thank you for your email of 31 January 2023 requesting the following information under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

*Please provide copies of documents held by your executive leadership team that were created since 6am on Friday 27 January relating to this major weather event and its aftermath, such as briefings, aide-memoires, situation updates, talking points, communications plans, correspondence with other agencies, minutes of meetings, key performance indicators, and damage assessments.*

*To assist with your search, I am seeking key documents that provide an insight into the department's thinking and decision-making immediately before, during and after this city-wide emergency, which will help to scrutinise the performance of its critical public functions during that period.*

During the weekend of 28 January 2023, Te Tūāpapa Kura Kāinga – Ministry of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)'s executive team received situational reports from the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA). I understand that you have requested information from the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet (DPMC), which includes NEMA, and will therefore receive any documents or information in scope of your request directly from them.

Over this weekend, HUD contacted our contracted housing providers in Auckland to understand the impact of the flooding on their properties and to offer support. Information on this is included in a joint briefing prepared with Kāinga Ora – Homes and Communities, *Flooding impacts for public and supported housing and subsequent response in Auckland, Tauranga and Waitomo*, for the Minister of Housing, Hon Dr Megan Woods. This briefing provided information on the impacts and response to flooding of public and supported housing in Auckland, Tauranga and Waitomo. I understand that you have requested information from Kāinga Ora, who authored the briefing, and will therefore receive any documents or information in scope of your request directly from them.

During the week of 30 January 2023, Anne Shaw, Deputy Chief Executive, Solutions Design and Implementation, attended cross-agency Caring for Communities meetings, which included discussion regarding the flood response. I understand that you have requested information from the Ministry of Social Development (MSD), who convened these meetings, and will therefore receive any documents or information in scope of your request directly from them.

HUD also provided updates for our staff via email and through our intranet. There are four documents that have been found to be within scope of your request and are being released to you. The documents are detailed in the attached document schedule.

Some information has been withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the Act, to protect the privacy of natural persons. In terms of section 9(1) of the Act, I am satisfied that, in the circumstances, the decision to withhold information under section 9 of the Act is not outweighed by other considerations that render it desirable to make the information available in the public interest.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review of my response by the Ombudsman, in accordance with section 28(3) of the Act. The relevant details can be found on the Ombudsman's website at: [www.ombudsman.parliament.nz](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz).

As part of our ongoing commitment to openness and transparency, the Ministry proactively releases information and documents that may be of interest to the public. As such, this response, with your personal details removed, may be published on our website.

Yours sincerely



Brad Ward  
**Deputy Chief Executive, Organisational Performance**

## Annex 1: Document schedule

Documents released – HUD2023-001621			
	Date	Document	Section of the Act applied
1	28 January 2023	Email from Andrew Crisp: Stay safe Tāmaki whānau	s9(2)(a)
2	30 January 2023	Email from Brad Ward: Update for our Tāmaki whānau	s9(2)(a)
3	31 January 2023	Email from Brad Ward: Update on our people in Auckland	s9(2)(a)
4	3 February 2023	Intranet article: Update on the APO	Released in full

**From:** [Brad Ward](#)  
**To:** [DL - Auckland HUD Only](#)  
**Cc:** [DL - HUD Leaders](#); [Janet Harris](#); [DL - HUD SLT EAs](#)  
**Subject:** Update for our Tāmaki whānau  
**Date:** Monday, January 30, 2023 2:03:28 PM  
**Attachments:** [image002.png](#)  
[image004.png](#)  
[image006.png](#)  
[image013.png](#)  
[image014.png](#)  
[image015.png](#)

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Kia ora Tāmaki whānau

I would like to follow up on Andrew's email from Saturday, on behalf of SLT and your Wellington colleagues. We are thinking of you all and hope that you, your whānau and friends, are all doing ok. We would also like to thank those of you who have worked over the weekend to support the state of emergency.

We would like to encourage everyone based in Auckland to work from home for the remainder of this week, particularly while the state of emergency is in place. This will allow you to focus on yourselves and your family, ensure you remain safe (with more bad weather predicted over this week including further weather warnings) and help reduce pressure on the transport system.




Michael Quinn will also be sending out an email this afternoon, suggesting similar working arrangements for all APO staff this week.

SLT are also keen to reach out to you all tomorrow morning to check in with you, see how you are doing, and for you to let us know what if any additional support you may need. We will send out a Teams meeting later today for a session tomorrow morning with SLT. In the meantime, if you need anything, please reach out to your manager.

Ngā mihi

**Brad Ward**

Deputy Chief Executive | Organisational Performance  
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[UNCLASSIFIED]

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**From:** Andrew Crisp <[Andrew.Crisp@hud.govt.nz](mailto:Andrew.Crisp@hud.govt.nz)>  
**Sent:** Saturday, January 28, 2023 10:33 AM  
**To:** DL - Auckland HUD Only <[DL-AucklandHUD@hud.govt.nz](mailto:DL-AucklandHUD@hud.govt.nz)>  
**Cc:** DL - HUD Leaders <[HUDLeaders@hud.govt.nz](mailto:HUDLeaders@hud.govt.nz)>; DL - HUD SLT EAs <[HUDSLTEAs@hud.govt.nz](mailto:HUDSLTEAs@hud.govt.nz)>

**Subject:** Stay safe Tāmaki whānau

Kia ora Tāmaki whānau

The DCEs and I are thinking of you and your whānau with the extreme flooding and state of emergency situation in Auckland.

While we are distanced from your reality, we are all thinking of you and how we might practically help now, or in the coming days.

The priority is you and your whānau – please reach out and let your manager know how best we can support you.


It goes without saying that we hope that you are all safe.

Ngā manaakitanga, nā  
Andrew

**Andrew Crisp** ([he/him](#))

Chief Executive

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[UNCLASSIFIED]

**From:** [Brad Ward](#)  
**To:** [DL - HUD Leaders](#)  
**Cc:** [Janet Harris](#); [Sandra Mansor](#); [Denise Sheehan](#)  
**Subject:** Update on our people in Auckland  
**Date:** Tuesday, January 31, 2023 11:35:40 AM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)  
[image003.png](#)  
[image005.png](#)  
[image009.png](#)  
[image010.png](#)  
[image011.png](#)

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Kia ora

SLT met with our Auckland staff earlier this morning. This was a check-in on our people and how they are going and what more they would like from us to support them. It was also an opportunity to share what we are hearing regarding the emergency response.

We are fortunate that none of our people in Auckland have been impacted in any significant way by the flooding over the weekend. We are mindful however that severe weather (heavy rain and winds) is forecast to hit Auckland, Northland and the Bay of Plenty from late this afternoon until at least midday tomorrow <https://www.metservice.com/warnings/home>.

From our discussion this morning, it is clear that two things would help:

1. Ensuring flex in the workload for our Auckland people – we want to ensure their priority is themselves, their families, friends and communities. A number of our Auckland people are helping with the clear up in their communities.
2. No travel to Auckland over the next couple of weeks unless approved by a DCE. APO staff have all been encouraged to work from home for the rest of this week and travel in Auckland will be problematic for the near term.

We will continue to keep in regular contact with our people in Auckland over the remainder of this week.

Please feel free to contact me or your DCE about any Auckland matters.

Ngai mihi

**Brad Ward**

Deputy Chief Executive | Organisational Performance  
Organisational Performance  
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[www.hud.govt.nz](http://www.hud.govt.nz) | Level 8, 7 Waterloo Quay, Pipitea, Wellington

## Update on the APO

3 Huitanguru 2023 | 3 February 2023

Due to the state of emergency in Auckland being extended, SLT is encouraging our Auckland-based people to continue to work from home next week, if that suits their situation.

The APO will be open for those who may wish to head into the office.

We are continuing to support the mahi of community and transitional housing providers in Auckland, and our thoughts are with those whose homes have been affected by the flooding.

