

6 August 2015

Clare Curran
Member for Parliament
PO Box 2084,
South Dunedin
DUNEDIN 9012

Dear Clare Curran

Re: Information Requests Regarding Rain Event of June 2015

Thank you for the eight emails requesting various information about the rain event of June 2015.

The requests have been considered under the provisions of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 (LGOIMA) and the following response is provided. I have repeated and numbered the emails and questions to give context to our response.

A response has already been sent to the first request.

Request number 2:

- 1 How many housing assessments were completed by Dunedin City Council staff on June 4th, 5th and 6th following the Wednesday 3 June floods?
- 2 How many housing assessments have been completed by Dunedin City Council staff between Thursday 4 June and Monday 15 June?
- 3 How many housing assessments related to the flood event of Wednesday 3 June have been completed on the same day they were requested since Thursday 4 June?
- 4 How many housing assessments have been requested of the Dunedin City Council since Wednesday 3 June 2015?
- 5 How many housing assessments are projected to be undertaken by Dunedin City Council staff for the month of June?

Dunedin City Council (DCC) Response:

Over the period of the June 2015 flood and immediately afterwards, different data sets were compiled by DCC staff for different purposes, e.g. the Mayoral Relief Fund, the Recovery Assistance Centre Register and the "Knock list" following the two days of door-knocking checking on residents in South Dunedin in which Ms Curran participated. These different lists are in the process of being collated so we do not currently hold information about the total number of housing assessments undertaken by the DCC over the period specified. Once that collation is completed, we will be able to provide you with a response to your request.

Request number 3:

- 1 All reports or briefings including notes and minutes from verbal briefings, if any, by date and title she [we take this to mean the Chief Executive] or her office has sought or received regarding the flood event on Wednesday, 3 June.

DCC Response:

We advise that we do not hold any reports, notes or minutes with respect to verbal briefings sought or received by the Dunedin City Council CEO regarding the flooding event of June 2015.

- 2 All reports or briefings, if any, by date and title she [we take this to mean the Chief Executive] or her office has sought or received regarding the use of emergency services and New Zealand Army personnel to assist due to flooding between 9.00AM Wednesday 3 June and 9.00AM Thursday 4 June

DCC Response:

We advise that we do not hold any reports, notes or minutes with respect to verbal briefings sought or received by the Dunedin City Council CEO regarding the flooding event of June 2015.

For clarification, we comment that:

- a) as the scope of your request has specifically referenced reports and briefings, correspondence on the floods has not been included; and
- b) various media reports may also be relevant to your request but have not been included on the grounds in section 17(d) that the information is already publicly available.

Request number 4:

1. How many complaints, by date and title, has the Dunedin City Council received from Dunedin residents regarding consistent groundwater flooding that has the potential to cause damage to their property since 1 January 2012?

DCC Response:

You are requested to contact the DCC to clarify and/or refine your request as it is not possible to identify complaints that are relevant to your search terms "consistent groundwater flooding" and "potential to cause damage".

2. How many complaints, by date and title, has the Dunedin City Council received regarding blocked mud-tanks and drains since 1 January 2012?

DCC Response:

Since 1 January 2015 to the date of your request, the Dunedin City Council had notified its contractors of 3128 matters needing investigation. Of these 3128 matters, 250 involved drainage issues. Of these 250 drainage issues, 81 were inspected as they had been described as "blocked drainage".

The following may be included within the definition of "blocked drainage":

- blocked tanks
- blocked grate
- culverts obstructed
- water tables obstructed
- tidal effect on sumps
- excessive leaf drop
- metal migration from private drives
- other blockage concrete /plaster/plastics.
- they could be bubble up tanks
- broken lateral
- poor installations
- no grate

We do not hold a record that collates the notifications by date and title, but we are reviewing whether we can create this record and will advise you about this as soon as practicable.

Request number 5:

In responding to your request for information on this matter we note that civil defence emergency management is a coordination function to help maximise the effectiveness of existing resources for emergency response.

1. How many calls were logged for Dunedin Civil Defence services between 9.00AM Wednesday 3 June and 9.00AM Thursday 4 June 2015?

DCC Response:

The Dunedin Civil Defence EOC received 108 calls during the 24 hour period 9.00 am Wednesday 3 June and 9.00 am Thursday 4 June 2015.

2. When was the last call logged for Dunedin Civil Defence services on Wednesday 3 June?

DCC Response:

The last call on 3 June 2015 was received at 23:00.

3. How many of the calls logged for Dunedin Civil Defence services in the 24 hour period from 9.00AM Wednesday 3 June were related to water contamination?

DCC Response:

We are unable to supply this information as this information was not recorded.

4. How many of the calls logged for Dunedin Civil Defence services in the 24 hour period from 9.00AM Wednesday 3 June were asking for assistance and advice regarding evacuation?

DCC Response:

During this 24 hour period Dunedin Civil Defence received approximately 6 requests for assistance, but we cannot confirm this was in respect of evacuation as this information was not recorded.

5. How many of the calls logged for Dunedin Civil Defence services in the 24 hour period from 9.00AM Wednesday 3 June were requesting access to sandbags?

DCC Response:

We have been advised that the St Kilda Surf Life Saving Club provided 3500 sandbags to approximately 98 properties.

6. How many properties did Dunedin Civil Defence personnel assist with evacuation in the 24 hour period from 9.00AM Wednesday 3 June 2015?

DCC Response:

Dunedin Civil Defence staff did not assist with any evacuations as evacuations are the responsibility of the emergency services. There were many instances of people who self-evacuated and neither Civil Defence nor the emergency services were advised of these evacuations.

7. What time did Dunedin Civil Defence close operations on Wednesday 3 June 2015?

DCC Response:

The Emergency Operation Centre (EOC) closed at 11:30 pm on Wednesday 3 June 2015. During the time the EOC was closed a duty number was available and contingency arrangements were in place at all times.

8. What time did Dunedin Civil Defence operations resume on Thursday 4 June 2015?

DCC Response:

The EOC re-opened at 3:30 am and resumed full operation at 5:30 am.

9. How many Civil Defence staff were on duty on Wednesday 3 June until operations closed?

DCC Response:

One Civil Defence manager was employed by Civil Defence, but DCC staff with Civil Defence Responsibilities were assigned roles within the EOC. There were approximately 25 to 35 people at the EOC working in the following roles:

- Dunedin City Civil Defence Emergency Management
- Planning Group
- Intelligence Group
- Public Information Group
- News Media Liaison Group
- New Zealand Police
- New Zealand Fire Service
- Logistics Group
- Communications Group
- Engineering Group
- St John Ambulance
- District Health Board
- Welfare Group
- Community Assessment Group
- New Zealand Army
- New Zealand Red Cross

Request number 6:

- 1 What strategy was in place to assist the residential homes for the elderly, the intellectually disabled or mental health patients should they require evacuation in the event of an emergency prior to Wednesday 3 June?

DCC Response:

This aspect of your request has been transferred to the Southern District Health Board (SDHB). Please note that the SDHB had staff present at the EOC acting in a liaison role and coordinating with other agencies.

- 2 What strategy was implemented to assist the evacuation of residential homes for the elderly, the intellectually disabled or mental health patients due to flooding between 9.00AM Wednesday 3 June and 9.00AM Thursday 4 June?

DCC Response:

Multiple agencies at the EOC provided a coordinated approach to requests for assistance with evacuation. We can advise that the SDHB require all rest homes to have plans in place for emergencies. The SDHB also has an emergency operations centre which supports and coordinates events in emergencies. Council staff and the New Zealand Fire Service installed flood protection barriers near one rest home to facilitate a safe evacuation. Logistics staff at the EOC provided the SDHB with contact details of suppliers for some resources requested for a rest home.

Request number 7:

1. All reports, advice or briefings including notes and minutes from verbal briefings, by date and title he or his office has sought or received regarding the Dunedin flood event on Wednesday 3 June 2015?

DCC Response:

Most of the information sought and received by the Manager of Civil Defence and Rural Fire, was by way of verbal briefings. Where notes were taken at those briefings, we have supplied copies of them. Please note that some information in the briefing documents has been withheld. We rely upon the grounds detailed below for withholding.

- a) The names of staff, (other than staff acting in Civil Defence Roles) members of the public and the Minister of the Crown have been withheld on grounds of privacy. (section 7(2)(a) LGOIMA)
- b) The following redactions are withheld on the ground that the making available of the information would be likely unreasonably to prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied or who is the subject of the information. (section 7 (2)(b)(ii) LGOIMA):
 - The first redaction in the briefing report 4 June 0621
 - The redaction in the briefing report 4 June 1345
 - The third redaction in the briefing report 4 June 2.00 pm
 - The redaction in the briefing report 4 June 1630.

DCC Response:

The New Zealand Army offered its services to the EOC and had a liaison person present in the EOC. Consequently an Army representative was present at all operational briefings and planning between 9.00am Wednesday 3 June and 9.00am Thursday 4 June 2015. Specifically, the New Zealand Army assisted by placing a Unimog at the disposal of the personnel coordinating activities in Mosgiel to assist with any evacuation which might have been required had the Silverstream overtopped. The New Zealand Army also collected and

transported bulk stocks of sandbags from the New Zealand Fire Service to the St Kilda Surf Lifesaving Club.

Request number 8:

1. All reports, strategies or plans regarding management of instances of extreme flooding requiring evacuation.

DCC response:

The DCC's response is guided by the national programme for disaster management and recovery. The Civil Defence Emergency Management (CDEM) Plan was in place. This plan provides for the exercise of the powers to evacuate areas if a state of emergency has been declared, and also the co-ordination of agencies which will implement any evacuation and post-evacuation support. No situation since the Abbotsford landslip (1979) and the Taieri flood (1980) has required a state of emergency to be declared. The CDEM Plan is publicly available on the Council's website: <http://www.dunedin.govt.nz/cd> along with information for the public to prepare for getting through a flood event.

As some information has been withheld, you have the right pursuant to section 27 of LGOIMA to have our decision reviewed by the Office of the Ombudsman.

Yours sincerely,



Kristy Rusher

Manager, Civic and Legal
Dunedin City Council