



28 April 2022

Harold  
fyi-request-18983-08b050a1@requests.fyi.org.nz

Reference: OIA-2021/22-1165

Dear Harold

**Official Information Act request relating to National Exercise Programme**

Thank you for your Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) request received on 28 March 2022. You requested:

*I would like to make a request for information relating to the National Exercise Programme. I would like to request:*

*ONE: A list of all national (Tier 4) exercises conducted since the beginning of 2018. I would like this list to include the name of the exercise, date performed (month and year), lead agency and scenario covered.*

*TWO: On the NEMA website, it is noted that "In December 2020, the Hazard Risk Board approved an amended schedule of exercises to take place between 2021 - 2023." I would like to request a copy of the complete schedule of exercises approved by the Hazard Risk Board in December 2020.*

*THREE: If the December 2020 schedule of exercises has since been amended, I would like to request a copy of the current schedule as well.*

**Information being released**

In response to question one of your request, I have defined tier 4 exercises that relate to national Civil Defence Emergency Management exercises. I can confirm that there have been no Tier 4 exercises since 2018. However, there have been five National Exercise Programme exercises since 2018. These exercises were conducted outside of the tier system and are detailed in the table below:

Year	Details	Lead Agency
2018	POMARE Disease Threat	Ministry of Health
2018	HIGH WATER Irregular Migration	Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment
2018	ACTUATOR Cyber Threat	Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

2019	WHAKATAU KORERO Biosecurity	Ministry for Primary Industries
2021	INTENSITY Cyber threat	National Cyber Security Centre

**Additional Information**

The National Security System National Exercise Programme schedule comprises a 4-year cycle with a range of exercises designed and delivered over the period. Exercises held at a national level are a significant undertaking and the schedule is designed to be flexible. The programme may change to address new risks as they arise and considers the need for agencies to respond to real emergencies when they occur. The response to COVID-19 has resulted in a number of agencies having to adjust their exercise and training programmes.

It should be noted that the National Security System complements – but does not replace – agency readiness programmes. Lead agencies are still expected to exercise their own arrangements for their particular risks at the appropriate levels, including the activation of emergency coordination centres as needed.

If you are interested in a specific risk area, please contact the relevant lead agency directly. A list of lead agencies can be found in the National Security Systems Handbook, which is publicly available on the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet website, at <https://dpmc.govt.nz/sites/default/files/2017-03/dpmc-nss-handbook-aug-2016.pdf>.

**Information publicly available**

Regarding question two and three of your request, the information requested is publicly available on the following website:

Item	Title	Website Address
1.	CDEM Exercise Calendar	<a href="https://www.civildefence.govt.nz/cdem-sector/exercises/cdem-exercise-calendar/">https://www.civildefence.govt.nz/cdem-sector/exercises/cdem-exercise-calendar/</a>
2.	National Exercise Programme (interagency)	<a href="https://www.civildefence.govt.nz/cdem-sector/exercises/national-exercise-programme-interagency/">https://www.civildefence.govt.nz/cdem-sector/exercises/national-exercise-programme-interagency/</a>

Therefore I am refusing this part of your request under section 18(d) of the Act as the information requested is publicly available.

You have the right to ask the Ombudsman to investigate and review my decision under section 28(3) of the Act.

Yours sincerely



Dave Gawn  
**Chief Executive**  
**National Emergency management Agency**