

OIA-2014-2104

7 November 2014

K Smith

fyi-request-1951-a93e10c2@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear K Smith

I refer to your email of 26 August 2014 requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA), correspondence regarding the Heretaunga Pistol Club. In your request, you sought:

A copy of all communication involving the Heretaunga Pistol Club that has been sent to and from Mr Steve Lamb, Range Control - Trentham Military Camp during his tenure, being August 1996 to the present day 26 August 2014.

On 19 September you clarified your request, limiting the scope to email correspondence from 2006 onwards, and all other general correspondence from August 2009 to August 2014.

Approximately 180 pages of correspondence that came within your request have been located. I enclose copies of all of the items. Please note that deletions have been made to some documents under section 9(2)(a) of the OIA, to protect the privacy of individuals. Public interest considerations do not outweigh the need to withhold this information.

All of this correspondence was recorded in one email account through which the Heretaunga Pistol Club communicated with Mr Lamb. Other email accounts which may have been used by members of the Pistol Club before 2013 have not been identified. Searching the NZDF's email archives for references to "Heretaunga Pistol Club" was considered, but that general search approach has in the past generated large numbers of false-positive results without locating much, or any, of the information being sought. Such a search could therefore take considerable time and effort to review a volume of material, without the likelihood of a significant result.

I therefore decline to meet your request for correspondence from the period 2006 to 2012 under section 18(f) of the OIA. Pursuant to section 18B of the Act, I do not consider that consulting you further on the scope of your request would increase the likelihood that a search would be productive.

You retain the right, under section 28(3) of the OIA, to ask that an Ombudsman review my response to your request.

Yours sincerely



G.R. SMITH
Commodore, RNZN
Chief of Staff HQNZDF

Enclosures

1. Correspondence between Mr Steve Lamb and the Heretaunga Pistol Club, 2013.
2. Correspondence between Mr Steve Lamb and the Heretaunga Pistol Club, 2014.
3. Heretaunga Pistol Club Inc. Range Standing Orders, 2013.
4. Trentham Camp Collins Range Standing Orders, 2013.
5. New Zealand Police Range Certification, August 2013.