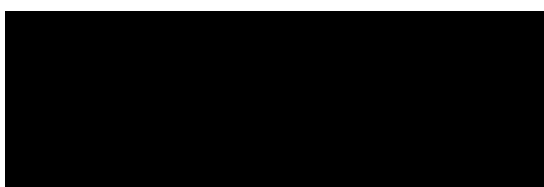




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23 May 2018



Information Request – Stats of mentally unwell firefighters who have received Counselling

I refer to your official information request dated 21 May 2018 asking for Stats of mentally unwell firefighters who have received Counselling.

The safety, health and wellbeing of our people is of paramount importance to us. A firefighter's job is challenging and at times can be very upsetting. We know that firefighters who are supported respond to, and recover better from exposure to critical incidents.

We have external independent confidential counselling and support services that can be accessed for any reason. These are available to all personnel, and their immediate families, at no cost.

The following tables show the use of counselling by our main providers Vitae and EAP Services:

- For the past five calendar years 2013 -2017
- For the first quarter of the calendar year 2018.

5 Year Total 2013 -2017		
EAP Services	Vitae	Combined Total
286	401	687

2018 Total as at 31 March 2018		
EAP Services	Vitae	Combined Total
42	44	86

I am advised that since 2013/14, Fire and Emergency staff have attended a total of 1,390 counselling sessions and wellness checks. Please note that our data does not differentiate between firefighters and other staff who seek support.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this decision. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or freephone 0800 802 602. Note also that this response (with your personal details removed) may be published on the Fire and Emergency website.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Leigh Deuchars', written in a cursive style.

Leigh Deuchars
Director, Office of the Chief Executive