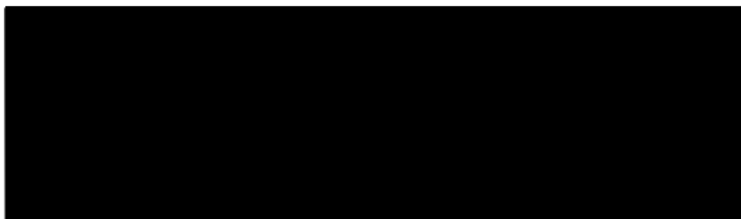




**National Headquarters**  
Level 12  
80 The Terrace  
PO Box 2133  
Wellington  
New Zealand

Phone +64 4 496 3600

13 July 2018



**Information Request – Support for personnel experiencing Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder**

I refer to your official information request dated 19 June 2018 asking for the following information:

- How many Fire and Emergency personnel were on leave in relation to Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), and
- How many Fire and Emergency personnel required counselling in relation to PTSD.

Between 1 April 2012 and 31 March 2018, 8 paid staff members received sick leave in relation to PTSD. We are unable to provide these figures by region due to the small number and the risk it could identify individuals. These leave figures do not extend to volunteers as leave is managed at the brigade level and brigades are not required to report on reasons for volunteers being on leave.

As part of the Safety, Health and Wellbeing programme all our personnel, including volunteers have access to various confidential support. Depending on the level of need the support options available range from Employee Assistance Programme (EAP), Clinical psychologists with specialist trauma expertise to Consultant psychiatrists. Other support options include chaplaincy services, and workplace support. We receive high level reporting as to the general reasons that services are being accessed but to protect the privacy of our personnel we do not collect specific diagnoses information. Fire and Emergency is therefore unable to answer your second question. Where serious concerns arise for the safety or health of our personnel accessing support there are mechanisms for this to be reported.

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](http://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

Leigh Deuchars  
Director, Office of the Chief Executive