

10 March 2023

s9(2)(a)

Tēnā koe s9(2)(a)

I refer to your request received on 10 February 2023, which has been considered under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA). Your request and response below:

Can I please have any reports, briefings, memos, aide memories, or other documents by title and date provided to the Minister Hon Carmel Sepuloni (or any other Minister or Associate Minister) from 2 Feb until 10 February 2023 in relation to the establishment of the National Erebus Memorial.

There are no documents within the scope of your request. Accordingly, I have refused your request for the documents listed in the above table under section 18(e) of the OIA – the information requested does not exist.

Also can you please advise me of the number of passengers and crew that the 500 Erebus families who wrote to the Ministry in Oct last year represent.

We have interpreted your request as relating to the letter sent to Manatū Taonga dated 10 October 2022, titled 'Unwavering support for National Erebus Memorial at Taurarua/Dove Myer Robinson Park', which contained the names of family members and supporters of the National Erebus Memorial.

While the 500 family members represented in this letter are related to 45 Erebus victims, we note the letter refers to further Erebus family members who are uncomfortable with adding their names to this, or any letter, as they do not wish to become targets of those currently opposing the establishment of the National Erebus Memorial in Dove-Myer Robinson Park, Parnell. Therefore, the true number of family members is higher than the number stated.

It is important that the above information is provided with context. We note the following excerpt from the Chief Ombudsman's report dated 24 March 2022, relating to the National Erebus Memorial:

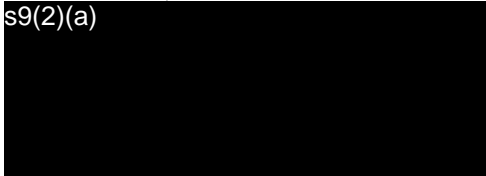
"...Forty-two years have now elapsed since the crash. Members of two generations unborn at the time can legitimately say that they are family members of Erebus victims. It seems to me that it would be wholly invidious to enquire into the bona fides of persons claiming a family relationship with some killed in the crash. Nor is it necessary to do so."

If you wish to discuss this decision with us, please feel free to contact OIA@mch.govt.nz.

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.

Nāku noa, nā

s9(2)(a)

A large black rectangular redaction box covers the majority of the page's content, obscuring the name and details of the individual mentioned in the text above.

Glenis Philip-Barbara
Pou Mataaho o Te Hua - Deputy Chief Executive, Delivery

PROACTIVELY RELEASED