

23 March 2023

s9(2)(a)

Tēnā koe s9(2)(a)

I refer to your request received on 10 March 2023, which has been considered under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA), for the following:

***How many were passengers and how many were crew? [that the 500 Erebus families who wrote to the Ministry in Oct last year represent].***

On 14 March 2023, in consultation with Manatū Taonga, you provided the reasoning for requesting this information, as follows:

***As a Erebus family member I am interested to know the breakdown of those who are in support (Ice Phase, Passengers and Crew)***

As noted previously, the list of names contained in the relevant letter sent to Manatū Taonga in October 2022 is not exhaustive and may not represent the sum total of Erebus family members who are in support of the National Erebus Memorial in Dove-Myer Robinson Park.

Manatū Taonga does not distinguish between those related to passengers and those related to crew when determining whether to engage Erebus family members in discussion surrounding the National Erebus Memorial. In addition, the Ministry does not hold comprehensive records of how Erebus family members are related to victims.

The letter provided to Manatū Taonga in October last year contains the names of over 500 family members who have identified themselves as being related to nine crew member and 36 passenger Erebus victims. These figures do not include Ice Phase personnel listed in the letter of support.

As mentioned in previous correspondence, 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:

*"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."*

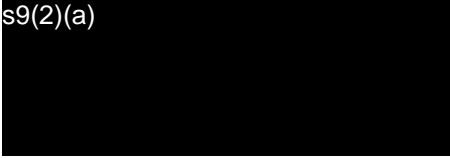
If you wish to discuss this decision with us, please feel free to contact [OIA@mch.govt.nz](mailto:OIA@mch.govt.nz).

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](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz) or freephone 0800 802 602.

Please note that we may publish this letter (with your personal details removed) on the Ministry's website.

Nāku noa, nā

s9(2)(a)

A large black rectangular redaction box covering the recipient's name and contact information.

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

PROACTIVELY RELEASED