



25 September 2020

Wendy McGuinness  
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Reference: OIA-2020/21-0136

Dear Wendy McGuinness

**Official Information Act request relating to declared States of National Emergency -  
Further request**

Thank you for your Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) request received on 7 September 2020. You requested:

*"I note that you only provided information in response to the Civil Defence Emergency Management Act 2002. Do you know if any equivalent events happened pre-2002 and if yes, what they were and under what Act.  
I have been able to find this paper, if it helps. See  
<https://www.otago.ac.nz/law/research/journals/otago036323.pdf>"*

Thank you for your clarification about what you were seeking in your previous request. The National Emergency Management Agency does not keep a record of historic declarations as you have described, as this information is a matter of public record.

Prior to the Civil Defence Emergency Management Act 2002, the Governor General could proclaim or declare a state of national emergency under the following legislation:

- Part III of the Civil Defence Act 1983,  
([http://www.nzlii.org/nz/legis/hist\\_act/cda19831983n46133/](http://www.nzlii.org/nz/legis/hist_act/cda19831983n46133/))
- Part III of the Civil Defence Act 1962,  
([http://nzlii.org/nz/legis/hist\\_act/cda19621962n36133/](http://nzlii.org/nz/legis/hist_act/cda19621962n36133/))
- Part II of the Public Safety Conservation Act 1932,  
([http://www.nzlii.org/nz/legis/hist\\_act/psca193222qv1932n3363/](http://www.nzlii.org/nz/legis/hist_act/psca193222qv1932n3363/))

As set in previous Civil Defence Acts, any declaration of a state of national emergency would be made publicly available through the New Zealand Gazette (<https://gazette.govt.nz/>), which holds a digital records of Gazette notices from 1993 onward. Prior to this, we believe such records will be made available by Archives New Zealand (<https://archives.govt.nz/>).

For the purposes of the Act, I must refuse your request under section 18(d), as the information you have requested is publicly available. I wish you well with your research.

This response will be published on the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet's website during our regular publication cycle. Typically, information is released monthly, or as otherwise determined. Your personal information including name and contact details will be removed for publication.

Yours sincerely

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**Chief Executive, National Emergency Management Agency**