



2009/6859

20 October 2009

Mr Thomas Beagle  
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Dear Mr Beagle

Thank you for your enquiry of 9 August 2009 regarding the deletion of records, which we advised we were investigating on 9 September 2009.

Archives New Zealand has investigated the issue of deletion of officer's reports relating to the trial of the Digital Child Exploitation Filtering System, run by the Department of Internal Affairs. This reply provides the results of that investigation.

The Department of Internal Affairs have advised that the officer's reports for the trial were deleted because they were seen as not having operational value. They further advised that the requirements of the Public Records Act 2005 were not considered prior to the deletion of these reports and a disposal authority from the Chief Archivist, which is required for public records to be destroyed under the Public Records Act 2005, was not sought.

The Department of Internal Affairs report that they have taken steps to address this problem. The Department of Internal Affairs have made their staff familiar with the mandatory standards issued by the Chief Archivist that are relevant to managing these records in accordance with the Public Records Act 2005. Steps have also been taken to ensure that website filtering records cannot be deleted without seeking the necessary authority to do so.

I consider that these are appropriate remedial steps that will result in ongoing compliance with the Act.

Thank you for bringing to our attention this matter, which we take seriously.

Yours sincerely



Greg Goulding  
Acting Chief Executive and Chief Archivist