

From: [Jo Gascoigne](#)
To: 9(2)(a)
Cc: [OIA](#); [Matthew Schep](#)
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] - Re: RNZ request - Gigablue (26-OIAD-01647)
Date: Tuesday, 18 August 2026 4:53:47 pm
Attachments: [image004.png](#)
[image005.png](#)
[image006.png](#)
[image007.png](#)
[Release NGCOR3194 Joint letter from Ministers Grigg and Watts \[redacted\] \(3\).pdf](#)

[UNCLASSIFIED]

Kia ora 9(2)(a)

MCERT recently provided you with information you requested on Gigablue and mCDR (26-OIAD-01647). Included in this were documents identifying proposals made to Ministers by Gigablue for regulatory change to enable mCDR. Ministers have since written to Gigablue to confirm their position on these proposals. This letter was not included in the information you received as it was written and sent outside the time period covered in your OIA request, however as it relates to matters that were mentioned in the OIA request we are also providing it to you. Further to your OIA, please find this letter attached which rounds out the information you have been provided.

Ngā mihi,
Jo

Jo Gascoigne (she/her)*

General Manager RM Operations

Mob: 9(2)(a) Email: jo.gascoigne@mcert.govt.nz

PA: Viv McKevitt viv.mckevitt@mcert.govt.nz



**Ministry for Cities, Environment,
Regions & Transport**

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*If you are wondering about the inclusion of my pronouns on this signature, [read this article from SSC](#) about how sharing pronouns in this way can help create an inclusive and safe environment for transgender and nonbinary colleagues.

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[UNCLASSIFIED]

From: Matthew Schep <Matthew.Schep@mcert.govt.nz>

Sent: Tuesday, 11 August 2026 3:07 pm

To: 9(2)(a)

Cc: Jo Gascoigne <Jo.Gascoigne@mcert.govt.nz>; OIA <OIA@mfe.govt.nz>

Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] - Re: RNZ request - Gigablue (26-OIAD-01647)

[UNCLASSIFIED]

Kia ora 9(2)(a)

Please find attached a response to your request and instructions on how to access the documents via Microsoft File Exchange.

The folder link is: [OIA Team 25609 26-OIAD-01647](#)

Let me know if you have any questions or concerns.

Ngā mihi

Matthew Schep (he/him)

Advisor | Kaitohutohu

Ministerial Services | Enabling Services

Email: matthew.schep@mfe.govt.nz



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[UNCLASSIFIED]

From: 9(2)(a)

Sent: Tuesday, 14 July 2026 4:20 pm

To: Matthew Schep <Matthew.Schep@mcert.govt.nz>

Cc: Lachlan Brown <Lachlan.Brown@mcert.govt.nz>

Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] - Re: RNZ request - Gigablue (26-OIAD-01647)

Kia ora Matthew,

Thanks for getting back to me and confirming that.

Acknowledging the extension and reiterating my thanks for the work.

Ngā mihi
9(2)(a)

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

From: Matthew Schep <Matthew.Schep@mcert.govt.nz>
Sent: Tuesday, 14 July 2026 16:04:50
To: 9(2)(a)
Cc: Lachlan Brown <Lachlan.Brown@mcert.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] - Re: RNZ request - Gigablue (26-OIAD-01647)

[UNCLASSIFIED]

Kia ora 9(2)(a)

Yes, our extension and response preparation have taken the amended scope provided by you on 1 July into account. I apologise that we neglected to include this in our extension letter to you.

The narrowed scope for emails has reduced the request to 26 documents, 110 unique email conversations, and records of various meetings that we are compiling into a table. Our work to prepare these documents has required consultation with nine different external parties to date, most of which is still ongoing due to the volume of information.

Ngā mihi

Matthew Schep (he/him)
Advisor | Kaitohutohu
Ministerial Services | Enabling Services
Email: matthew.schep@mfe.govt.nz



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[UNCLASSIFIED]

From: 9(2)(a)
Sent: Tuesday, 14 July 2026 3:48 pm
To: Matthew Schep <Matthew.Schep@mcert.govt.nz>

Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] - Re: RNZ request - Gigablue (26-OIAD-01647)

Kia ora Matthew,

Just checking you got my amended request on 1 July, in response to your suggestions to narrow its scope?

I've attached it here – would be good to confirm whether the extension has taken the amendments into account because the letter only references the original request.

Ngā mihi

9(2)(a)

From: Matthew Schep <Matthew.Schep@mcert.govt.nz>

Sent: Tuesday, 14 July 2026 15:16:44

To: 9(2)(a)

Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] - Re: RNZ request - Gigablue (26-OIAD-01647)

[UNCLASSIFIED]

Kia ora 9(2)(a)

Please find attached a notice of extension for your request.

Ngā mihi

Matthew Schep (he/him)

Advisor | Kaitohutohu

Ministerial Services | Enabling Services

Email: matthew.schep@mfe.govt.nz



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[UNCLASSIFIED]

From: 9(2)(a)

Sent: Tuesday, June 30, 2026 8:36 PM

To: OIA <OIA@mfe.govt.nz>

Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] - Re: RNZ request - Gigablue (26-OIAD-01647)

MFE CYBER SECURITY WARNING

This email originated from outside our organisation. Please take extra care when clicking on any links or opening any attachments.

Kia ora Matthew,

Thanks again for the thorough email and the work done to date on my request.

Essentially I'm seeking information about further developments/progress on Gigablue's plans in New Zealand and the relevant regulations and statutes (both international and domestic) governing the company's activity, together with an update on the wider work/research this has sparked within MfE into mCDR.

I'd be happy for you to narrow the scope to exclude:

- Emails related to RNZ's media requests
- Emails where the primary topic is not Gigablue or mCDR
- System notifications about access to documents

At this stage I'd like to retain administrative emails such as calendar invites as they often help to establish a timeline for when meetings occurred and who attended, and the development process of briefings (especially changes in language and content). If there's an alternative you can suggest please let me know.

I'm not sure if this cuts down on time, but if it does, then I'm also happy for the response to exclude duplicated email chains – as long as the full conversation/s are retained.

I can chat through this over the phone if it would be helpful. There are some other modifications I could make re: the admin emails but they may be granular to the point of actually taking more time to work through than they might save.

Ngā mihi

9(2)(a)

9(2)(a)

RNZ, PO Box 2209, Tāmaki Makaurau, New Zealand, 1140

Mobile: 9(2)(a) www.rnz.co.nz



From: OIA <OIA@mfe.govt.nz>

Sent: Monday, 29 June 2026 12:08 pm

To: 9(2)(a)

Subject: [EXTERNAL] - Re: RNZ request - Gigablue (26-OIAD-01647)

Kia ora 9(2)(a)

Thank you for your request under the OIA.

The Ministry has conducted an initial search for emails within the specified date range, which turned up 492 email conversations. I note that this number is likely high due to the broad scope of the first point of your request. After removing duplicate email chains, administrative emails about your previous OIA requests, and unrelated emails, we have identified 179 unique email conversations in scope. These include the following:

- Emails with other agencies
- Emails with our Minister's office
- Internal emails
- Emails with Gigablue
- Calendar invites to meetings
- System notifications about access to documents
- Emails about RNZ's media requests on these topics

Many of these emails are administrative, however I consider that you may be interested in them given the high public interest in the minutiae of this topic.

This exercise has taken approximately two weeks to date. It would take the Ministry a considerable amount of additional time and effort to prepare all 179 emails for release, including internal assessment, consulting with Gigablue, and consulting with other agencies and our Minister's office. As such, I would like to invite you to refine this part of your request to reduce the number of emails in scope with a focus on the substantive types of information that you are interested in.

Some suggestions, which are not mutually exclusive and which you are not bound by, include the following:

- Exclude emails about administrative matters not directly related to Gigablue or marine carbon dioxide removal (MCDR) (e.g. emails about RNZ's media requests)

- Exclude all or some types of administrative emails where they do not contain substantive information (category examples include: briefing planning and approvals, meeting invites, pleasantries between officials)
- Exclude emails with passing reference to Gigablue or MCDR that do not contain substantive advice, analysis, comment, or other types of information.

You are also welcome to suggest refinements of your own and/or share what kinds of information about Gigablue you are specifically interested in.

Please note that if we are unable to refine the part of your request for emails, the Ministry may consider refusing this part under section 18(f) of the Act as the information cannot be made available without substantial collation or research.

I note that your request for briefings, meeting agendas, note, minutes, and other documents would not be affected by use of this ground as the number of non-email documents in scope of your request identified by the Ministry to date is manageable.

Please advise me of any refinements to your request by 5pm Wednesday 1 July. Please note that from 1 July 2026, the functions of the Ministry for the Environment will be transferred to the Ministry for Cities, Regions, Environment and Transport (MCERT), so any further communication on your request will come from MCERT. The staff working on your request will remain the same and you are welcome to reply to this email address as it will still be monitored for the foreseeable future.

Ngā mihi

Matthew

Ministerial Services Team

Ministry for the Environment – Manatū Mō Te Taiao

Email: OIA@mfe.govt.nz Website: www.mfe.govt.nz

8 Willis Street, Wellington Central, Wellington 6011

From: 9(2)(a)
Sent: Sunday, June 14, 2026 10:24 PM
To: OIA <OIA@mfe.govt.nz>
Subject: RNZ request - Gigablue

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Kia ora,

Can I please request the following, for the calendar year to date -

- Any documents, including briefings, meeting agendas, note and minutes, and emails, regarding the marine carbon dioxide removal company Gigablue
- Any briefings or other documents supplied to ministers regarding marine carbon dioxide removal, not already captured by the first part of my request

Ngā mihi

9(2)(a)

9(2)(a)

RNZ, PO Box 2209, Tāmaki Makaurau, New Zealand, 1140

Mobile: 9(2)(a) www.rnz.co.nz



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