

18-D-01906

s 9(2)(a)

Office of Todd Muller MP

s 9(2)(a)

Dear s 9(2)(a)

On 27 August 2018, you requested information under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) for:

*"A copy of any documents shared with other government agencies, Ministers offices or Ministers, since October 2017, that discuss New Zealand's access to international carbon markets (including, but not limited to, linking New Zealand's emissions trading scheme to other emissions trading scheme or government purchasing of internationally transferred mitigation outcomes)."*

This is our formal response to your request. There are twenty-two documents held by the Ministry for the Environment (MfE) in scope of your request, listed in the attached table.

We are still undergoing consultation with MfE staff who are currently overseas on official business to determine if they hold additional information within scope. We will advise you by the end of next month if there is any further in scope material found and if so, the decisions made in relation to the material.

Of the documents identified as in scope four documents are being released in full.

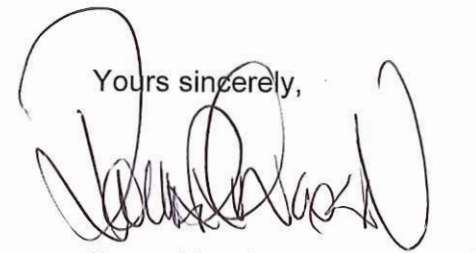
Eight documents are being withheld in part; of which seven will be provided to you today. One document, outlined in the attached table, has already been partially released to you on 11 September. We have assessed information that was withheld at the time of its release to you and consider that it still applies. Six documents are being withheld in full. Material has been withheld under the following sections of the Act;

- 9(2)(a) *protect the privacy of natural persons, including that of deceased natural persons*
- 9(2)(d) *avoid prejudice to the substantial economic interests of New Zealand*
- 9(2)(f)(iv) *maintain the constitutional conventions for the time being which protect the confidentiality of advice tendered by Ministers of the Crown and officials*
- 9(2)(j) *enable a Minister of the Crown or any department or organisation holding the information to carry out, without prejudice or disadvantage, commercial activities*
- 6(a) *to prejudice the security or defence of New Zealand or the international relations of the Government of New Zealand*

Four documents are being refused under section 18(d) of the Act: *the information requested is or will soon be publicly available*. Documents refused are all available on the MfE website.

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.

Yours sincerely,



Roger Lincoln  
Director, Climate Change

Released under the provisions of  
the Official Information Act 1982

## List of documents

Document no.	Document date	Content	Decisions	OIA Section/s applied (if withholding information)
1	2008	Departmental Report on the Climate Change (Emissions Trading and Renewable Preference) Bill	Release in full	n/a
2	January 2017	Project Plan: International Carbon Markets	Withhold in part	s 9(2)(d) s 9(2)(j) s 6(a)
3	November 2017	2017-B-03946 - International carbon markets project	Withhold in part	s 9(2)(a) s 9(2)(j) s 6(a)
4	December 2017	Business Case - Environmental integrity	Withhold in part	s 9(2)(d) s 9(2)(j) s 6(a)
5	February 2018	Climate Change Weekly Update for week of 5 February 2018, Section 2.4. Key takeaways from the High Level Dialogue on Carbon Pricing in the Americas 22-24 January 2018.	Withhold in part	s 9(2)(d) s 9(2)(j) s 6(a)
6	February 2018	Update - International Carbon Markets Project	Withhold in part	s 9(2)(a) s 9(2)(d) s 9(2)(j) s 6(a)
7	May 2018	CAB-18-MIN-0248 Minute Government position on carbon markets	Release in full	n/a
8	May 2018	Cabinet paper: A Government position on international carbon markets	Withhold in part	s 9(2)(d) s 9(2)(j) s 6(a)
9	May 2018	Building Environmental Integrity in Cooperative Approaches Budget Bid	Release in full	n/a
10	May 2018	OMF Financial - hedging proposal	Release in full	n/a
11	May 2018	18-B-04594 - Talking points for ENV paper A Government Position on International Carbon Markets	Withhold in part	s 9(2)(a) s 9(2)(j)
12	October 2017	Briefing to the Incoming Minister for Climate Change	Refuse	s 18(d)

Document no.	Document date	Content	Decisions	OIA Section/s applied (if withholding information)
13	June 2018	Our Climate Your Say: Consultation on the Zero Carbon Bill	Refuse	s 18(d)
14	July 2018	Technical information about NZ's pre 2021 access to international carbon markets	Withhold in full	s 9(2)(f)(iv)
15	July 2018	Title withheld	Withhold in full	s 9(2)(j) s 6(a)
16	July 2018	Title withheld	Withhold in full	s 9(2)(j) s 6(a)
17	August 2018	Final Market Governance Report 2017 - Market Governance of the ETS - options and analysis	Refuse	S 18(d)
18	July 2018	Approval to consult on improvements to the New Zealand Emissions Trading Scheme	Withhold in full	s 9(2)(f)(iv)
19	July 2018	18-B-04707 International Carbon Markets Project – 2018-2019	Withhold in part. Provided on 11 September 2018.	s 9(2)(j) s 6(a)
20	August 2018	Improvements to the Emissions Trading Scheme. Consultation Document	Refuse	s 18(d)
21	September 2018	Title withheld	Withhold in full	s 9(2)(j) s 6(a)
22	September 2018	Title withheld	Withhold in full	s 9(2)(j) s 6(a)

Note: due to file size, please email [ministerials@mfe.govt.nz](mailto:ministerials@mfe.govt.nz) for copies of the documents listed above