

18-D-02158

s 9(2)(a)

Infometrics Limited

s 9(2)(a)

Tēnā koe s 9(2)(a)

Thank you for your email of 16 October 2018 requesting the following:

- 1) *Data showing the level of funding paid to each territorial authority (TA) or regional council in New Zealand, quarterly, from the waste disposal levy. This data should be from when data on payments starts, up until the latest payments made, broken down by TA.*
- 2) *Any data or reports held by MfE that details:*
 - a. *The amount (in tonnes, kgs, or similar units) of solid waste disposed of each quarter or year, broken down by TA*
 - b. *The amount (in tonnes, kgs, or similar units) of food waste disposed of each quarter or year, broken down by TA*
 - c. *The amount (in tonnes, kgs, or similar units) of recyclable materials disposed of each quarter or year, broken down by TA*
 - d. *The amount (in tonnes, kgs, or similar units) of recyclable materials disposed of each quarter or year, broken down by TA and recyclable type*
 - e. *The amount (in tonnes, kgs, or similar units) of waste materials exported each year*
 - f. *The proportion of recyclable materials which are actually recycled each year, broken down by recycling location (NZ or overseas)*
- 3) *Any data pertaining to waste facilities in NZ, including*
 - a. *The location of each waste facility monitored in New Zealand, by TA*
 - b. *The opening and closing date of each facility*
 - c. *The currently used, and total capacity, of each facility*
- 4) *Any reports produced by MfE, or produced for MfE, which outlines the level of waste present in NZ, or the level of waste disposed of in NZ*

Where the points under (2) are not able to be provided by TA, I would ask that they be provided by waste facility, or failing that, the most disaggregated measure possible. I would also ask that this data in Points 1-3 be provided in Excel documents. I would further ask that Point 4 be provided as searchable PDF documents.



Much of the information/data you have requested is not held by the Ministry for the Environment. In New Zealand, there is generally limited collection of waste data. Where it is collected, information is held by a variety of different organisations, with no central repository for information. Much waste data is also held by private businesses, is commercially sensitive and not available for public release.

Some of the information you have requested may be available within 'waste assessments', a statutory requirement for territorial authorities (TAs) under section 51 of the Waste Minimisation Act 2008. However, note that there are likely to be instances where TAs have not collected data to the level of detail you have requested and/or information is held by the private sector and is commercially sensitive.

Over the last few years, the Ministry has worked with territorial authorities and waste management companies to determine the waste data that can be collected, and methods for collecting it. More information about this 'National Waste Data Framework Project' can be found at the following link: <https://www.wasteminz.org.nz/projects/national-waste-data-framework-project/>.

In mid-2018, the Ministry received approval to commence a new project to improve the collection of waste-related data. This project intends to require landfill operators to report on the composition and quantity of waste, and obtain data from councils and the private sector on how much is reduced, reused and recycled.

Please find in the table below a list of the documents and information in scope of your OIA request. The following sections of the Official Information Act (OIA) have been applied to your request:

- S9(2)(b)(ii): release would be likely to unreasonably prejudice the commercial position of a person who supplied or is the subject of the information
- S18(d): the information is publically available
- S18(g): the information is not held by the Ministry, and there are not grounds for believing it is held by other organisations.

The table below indicates which particular OIA sections have been applied to the information in scope of your request.

In regards to parts 3.b) and 3.c) of your request (waste facility operating timeframes and capacities), the Ministry does not collect the level of information you have requested. Therefore that request is refused under section 18(g) of the Act as the information requested is not held by the Ministry. You may be able to, however, request this information directly from councils that are of particular interest to you.

Some information is refused because it is already publically available. Links to publically available documents are as follows:

- Report: New Zealand Non-Municipal Landfill Database (prepared for Ministry for the Environment by Tonkin & Taylor, January 2014).
<https://www.mfe.govt.nz/sites/default/files/media/Waste/nz-%20nonmunicipal-landfill-database-report-final.pdf>
- Report: National Waste Disposal Survey Final Report (prepared for Ministry for the Environment, by MWH, March 2017).
<http://www.mfe.govt.nz/publications/waste/national-waste-disposal-survey-final-report-2017>
- Report: Review of the Effectiveness of the Waste Disposal Levy 2017 (prepared by Ministry for the Environment, July 2017).
<http://www.mfe.govt.nz/sites/default/files/media/Waste/Review-of-the-effectiveness-of-the-waste-disposal-levy-2017.pdf>

- Data showing the level of funding paid to each territorial authority (TA) or regional council in New Zealand, quarterly, from the waste disposal levy. <http://www.mfe.govt.nz/waste/guidance-and-technical-information/waste-disposal-levy/waste-disposal-levy-payments> (see the section 'Payments to individual territorial authorities').

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 or freephone 0800 802 602.

The Ministry for the Environment will release responses to some selected requests for official information on our [Official Information Act requests page](#) soon after the requester has received their response.

If you have any queries, please feel free to contact our Executive Relations team.

Nāku iti noa, nā

HP 

Shaun Lewis
Director, Investments and Partnerships

Released under the provision of
the Official Information Act 1982

List of documents / information

No.	Date	Content	Decision	OIA Section/s applied (if withholding information)
1	April 2018	Data showing the level of funding paid to each territorial authority (TA) or regional council in New Zealand, quarterly, from the waste disposal levy.	Refuse to release	S18(d)
2	Not dated	Information about the amount of solid waste disposed of at levied landfills. This information is held within MfE's Online Waste Levy System (OWLS).	Refuse to release.	S9(2)(b)(ii)
3	N/A	Data or reports about the amount (in tonnes, kgs, or similar units) of food waste disposed of each quarter or year, broken down by TA	Refuse to release.	S18(g)
4	N/A	Data or reports about the amount (in tonnes, kgs, or similar units) of recyclable materials disposed of each quarter or year, broken down by TA	Refuse to release.	S18(g)
5	N/A	Data or reports about the amount (in tonnes, kgs, or similar units) of recyclable materials disposed of each quarter or year, broken down by TA and recyclable type.	Refuse to release.	S18(g)
6	N/A	Data or reports about the amount (in tonnes, kgs, or similar units) of waste materials exported each year	Refuse to release.	S18(g)
7	N/A	Data or reports about the proportion of recyclable materials which are actually recycled each year, broken down by recycling location (NZ or overseas)	Refuse to release.	S18(g)
8	2010/2011	PDF Map: "Map of NZ landfills – 2010-2011.pdf"	Release in full	N/A
9	N/A	Any data pertaining to waste facilities in NZ, including the opening and closing date of each facility.	Refuse to release.	S18(g)
10	N/A	Any data pertaining to waste facilities in NZ, including the currently used, and total capacity, of each facility.	Refuse to release.	S18(g)
11	January 2014	Report: New Zealand Non-Municipal Landfill Database. (prepared for Ministry for the Environment by Tonkin & Taylor, January 2014).	Refuse to release.	S18(d)

12	March 2017	Report: National Waste Disposal Survey Final Report (prepared for Ministry for the Environment, by MWH, March 2017).	Refuse to release.	S18(d)
13	July 2017	Report: Review of the Effectiveness of the Waste Disposal Levy 2017 (prepared by Ministry for the Environment, July 2017).	Refuse to release.	S18(d)

Released under the provision of
the Official Information Act 1982

