

19-D-01182

02 AUG 2019

s 9(2)(a)

National Leader's Office  
s 9(2)(a) @parliament.govt.nz

Dear s 9(2)(a)

Thank you for your email of 14 June 2019 requesting the following under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

All information sent or received by the Ministry regarding the EAT-Lancet Commission and its report Food in the Anthropocene: the EAT-Lancet Commission on healthy diets from sustainable food systems. I would expect this information to include all briefings or reports prepared or received by the Ministry, including all information provided to Ministers.

I am also interested in all information regarding your attendance at the Eat Stockholm Food Forum 2019 where you spoke as part of a panel. I would expect this information to include the invitation to attend the Forum, any information provided to any other person regarding your proposed attendance and briefing notes prepared for your participation on a panel at the forum. I request your itinerary from the time of your departure from New Zealand to your return to New Zealand. I am also interested in a breakdown of all costs associated with this overseas trip, including but not limited to, travel and accommodation costs. I specifically request a copy of all receipts and invoices associated with this trip.

The Ministry for the Environment has identified 65 documents in scope of your request, as listed in the attached table. Although 4 of those documents were dated after the receipt of your request, we have released them to you for additional context. Some information within these 65 documents has been withheld under the following sections of the Act:

9(2)(a) to protect the privacy of natural persons

18(d) the information is publicly available

In terms of section 9(1) of the Act, I am satisfied that, in the circumstances, the withholding of this information is not outweighed by other considerations that render it desirable to make the information available in the public interest.

Some out of scope information has also been removed from the documents being released to you.

The Ministry has an interest in the EAT-Lancet Commission and its report and has engaged domestically and internationally to learn more. However, the EAT-Lancet Commission work is not government policy and adopting it has not been raised with Ministers.

Attending the EAT Forum was also an opportunity to continue to develop the New Zealand Planetary Boundaries project in conjunction with the Stockholm Resilience Centre, and was in line with the Secretary for the Environment's role to advise and communicate on the impact of policy on environmental outcomes.

While the part of your OIA request was for the invitation to Ms Robertson to attend EAT Stockholm, it was the Prime Minister and various government Ministers who were first invited. The Ministry for the Environment discussed the invitations with the Ministry for Foreign Affairs and Trade and the Ministry for Primary Industries then briefed Ministers. Agreement was reached that the Secretary for the Environment, Ms Vicky Robertson, would attend the event.

The EAT President made a mistake during her opening address that the Ministry has quickly and publicly addressed. Organisers acknowledged the correction. See document 57 for further information.

The travel briefing, doc 37, contains three statements that are clarified by the following explanatory notes:

- a) Page 18, para 3: "waste is safest area for NZ to talk about". This acknowledges the briefing contains detailed evidence and analysis to support discussion on food waste.
- b) Page 34, para 12: The statement that the averaging approach to forestry accounting was negotiated as part of the Paris Agreement is incorrect. The Paris Agreement provides for accounting methodologies to be nationally determined, which is what NZ has done.
- c) Page 35, para 22: The reference to NZ's 2020 conditional target only acknowledges one condition if there is a global agreement. While this condition has now been satisfied, there are other conditions not specified in the briefing that have not been met.

A breakdown of all costs associated with this trip is provided below. Spending on meals and incidentals was shared across the group, and the net spend, after accounting for funds returned (\$Kr600), was \$3232.99.

	Travel	Accommodation	Incidentals allowance	Total
<b>Ms Vicky Robertson</b>	\$7559.56	\$1814.45	\$1392.56	\$10766.57
<b>Ms Michelle Pawson</b>	\$7237.28	\$1532.39	\$1392.56	\$10,162.23
<b>Dr Patrick Kavanagh</b>	\$6900.67	\$1532.39	\$1392.56	\$9825.62
<b>Returned incidentals</b>			(\$944.69)	(\$944.69)
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$21,697.51</b>	<b>\$4879.23</b>	<b>\$3232.99</b>	<b>\$29,809.73</b>

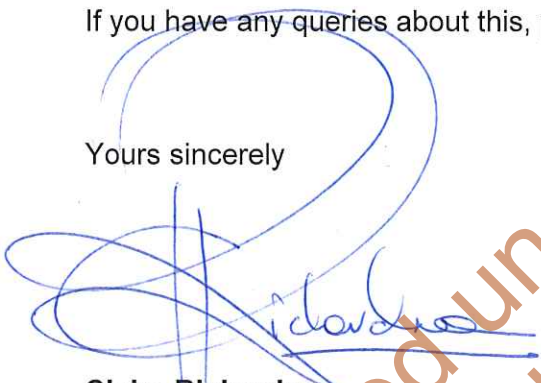
Travel is a necessary part of the Ministry for the Environment's work. International environmental commitments often require overseas travel, as does being part of solutions to global environmental issues. However, as part of the Ministry's commitment to being a sustainable organisation, costs and emissions are being cut as much as possible. In late 2018 the Ministry performed an internal audit on travel policies. Changes have been in place since early 2019, and have included reducing our travel budget by \$400,000.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Office of the Ombudsman of my decision to withhold information relating to this request, in accordance with section 28(3) of the Act. The relevant details can be found on their website at: [www.ombudsman.parliament.nz](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz).

Please note that due to the public interest in our work the Ministry for the Environment publishes responses to requests for official information on our website on our [OIA responses page](#) shortly after the response has been sent.

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

Yours sincerely



**Claire Richardson**  
Deputy Secretary, Organisational Performance

Released under the provisions of the Official Information Act 1982

### List of documents

Document no.	Document date	Content	Decisions	OIA sections applied
1	25-Oct-18	Nature Journal paper "Options for keeping the food system within environmental limits; 25 Oct 2018"	Withhold in full <a href="https://www.nature.com/articles/s41586-018-0594-0.pdf">https://www.nature.com/articles/s41586-018-0594-0.pdf</a>	S18(d) – the information is publicly available
2	1-Oct-18	Lancet research paper "Health and nutritional aspects of sustainable diet strategies and their association with environmental impacts: a global modelling analysis with country-level detail"	Withhold in full <a href="https://www.thelancet.com/action/showPdf?pii=S2542-5196%2818%2930206-7">https://www.thelancet.com/action/showPdf?pii=S2542-5196%2818%2930206-7</a>	S18(d) – the information is publicly available
3	16-Jan-19	EAT-Lancet Commission brief for Policymakers	Withhold in full <a href="https://eatforum.org/content/uploads/2019/01/EAT_brief_policymakers.pdf">https://eatforum.org/content/uploads/2019/01/EAT_brief_policymakers.pdf</a>	S18(d) – the information is publicly available
4	16-Jan-19	The Lancet Commissions report "Food in the Anthropocene: the EAT–Lancet Commission on healthy diets from sustainable food systems"	Withhold in full <a href="http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736(18)31788-4">http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736(18)31788-4</a>	S18(d) – the information is publicly available
5	16-Jan-19	The Lancett "The 21st-century great food transformation"	Withhold in full <a href="http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736(18)333179-9">http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736(18)333179-9</a>	S18(d) – the information is publicly available
6	14-Feb-19	Email from Prof Swinburn to MfE seeking discussion	Release in full	
7	6-Mar-19	Email invitation from EAT to PM and ministers attachment is doc 7.1	Release in full	
7.1	6-Mar-19	Invitation to the EAT Stockholm Food Forum	Release in full	
8	8-Mar-19	Forwarding email invitation from EAT to PM and ministers attachment is doc 7.1	Release in full	
9	13-Mar-19	Internal forwarding of email to MPI cc MFAT, attachments are docs 7.1 and 15	Release in full	
10	19-Mar-19	Email response from EAT regarding NZ attendance	Release in full	

Document no.	Document date	Content	Decisions	OIA sections applied
11	19-Mar-19	Email response from Hon Shaw office regarding EAT invitation	Release in full	
12	19-Mar-19	EAT response email to Hon Shaw declining invitation	Release in full	
13	19-Mar-19	Series of emails between MPI and MfE on content of memo (doc 15)	Release in part	S9(2)(a) - To protect the privacy of natural persons
14	23-Mar-19	Weekly internal email to VR - attachments are docs 1 and 2 and 14.1	Released in full Note, out of scope information has been removed	
14.1	23-Mar-19	NPSFM attachment to doc 14	Withhold in full, out of scope	
15	27-Mar-19	Signed memo to Prime Minister Jacinda Arden, Hon David Parker and Hon James Shaw	Release in full	
16	29-Mar-19	Internal email with URL	Release in full	
17	29-Mar-19	Internal email with URL	Release in full	
18	5-Apr-19	Covering email from MPI on comments on memo and science, attachments are docs 18.1 and 18.2	Release in full Note, out of scope information has been removed	
18.1	5-Apr-19	John Roche, MPI Chief Science Advisor, Initial thoughts on the EAT-Lancet Commission report	Release in full	
18.2	5-Apr-19	MPI paper: A sustainable food system	Release in full	
19	9-Apr-19	MfE email on MfE EAT event	Release in full	
20	11-Apr-19	Internal email, weekly briefing advice, attachments are docs 4 and 5 and 20.1	Released in full Note, out of scope information has been removed	
20.1	11-Apr-19	Email attachment: External comment on Resource Management Act National Environmental Standard for plantation forestry	Withhold in full, out of scope	

Document no.	Document date	Content	Decisions	OIA sections applied
21	Not dated	Event flyer: Healthy, sustainable, equitable, prosperous food systems: Implications for New Zealand	Release in full	
22	11-Apr-19	Prof Swinburn presentation Healthy, sustainable, equitable, prosperous food systems: Implications for New Zealand	Release in full	
23	11-Apr-19	Dr Singh presentation Food Planet Health	Release in full	
24	1-May-19	Internal forwarding of email invitation to political roundtable discussion prior to EAT Forum	Release in full	
25	5-May-19	Email from Prof Swinburn	Release in full	
26	10-May-19	Policy Roundtable flyer	Release in full	
27	13-May-19	Email of VR acceptance of invite to roundtable	Release in part	S9(2)(a) - To protect the privacy of natural persons
28	22-May-19	EAT welcoming email to VR, attachments are docs 28.1 and 28.2	Release in full	
28.1	22-May-19	EAT side events information	Release in full	
28.2	22-May-19	EAT panel brief and information pack	Release in full	
29	24-May-19	Travel itinerary for PK	Release in full	
30	24-May-19	Travel itinerary for MP	Release in full	
31	24-May-19	Internal email forwarding event links	Release in full	
32	29-May-19	EAT event organising email	Release in full	
33	30-May-19	Internal forwarding of Prof Swinburn invite to EAT side event	Release in full	
34	4-Jun-19	EAT email to speaker on final reminders	Release in full	
35	5-Jun-19	Final travel itinerary for VR	Release in full	

Document no.	Document date	Content	Decisions	OIA sections applied
36	5-Jun-19	Science Advice to Environment Secretary on EAT Lancet Commission on Healthy Diets from Sustainable Food Systems	Release in full	
37	6-Jun-19	Briefing to VR – Stockholm June 2019	Release in part	S9(2)(a) - To protect the privacy of natural persons
38	5 Jun-19	Country paper – Kingdom of Sweden	Release in full	
39	5-Jun-19	EAT Stockholm Food Forum – Supporting Readings	Release in full	
40	6-Jun-19	Email from EAT on accommodation reminder	Release in full	
41	7-Jun-19	Cover email from DairyNZ for docs 41.1 and 41.2	Release in part	S9(2)(a) - To protect the privacy of natural persons
41.1	7-Jun-19	Letter to Environment Secretary from Dairy Companies Association of NZ, Dairy NZ and Fed Farmers	Release in full	
41.2	7-Jun-19	IDF NZ Factsheet	Release in full	
42	10-Jun-19	EAT email reminding participants of app	Release in full	
43	Not dated	Logistics note for policy roundtable side event	Release in full	
44	Not dated	EAT side events	Withhold in full <a href="https://eatforum.org/eatforum19-side-events/">https://eatforum.org/eatforum19-side-events/</a>	S18(d) – the information is publicly available
45	Not dated	Message board – invitation to a NZ EAF forum 2020	Release in full	
46	13-Jun-19	EAT panel transcript	Release in full	
47	13-Jun-19	Cover email to VR from Beef and Lamb NZ - attachment is doc 47.1	Release in part	S9(2)(a) - To protect the privacy of natural persons
47.1	13-Jun-19	Email attachment: Letter to CEO of MfE from Beef and Lamb NZ	Release in full	
48	17-Jun-19	MfE email on content of Gunheld speech and invitation	Release in full	
49	18-Jun-19	VR email to EAT correcting part of speech	Release in full	

Document no.	Document date	Content	Decisions	OIA sections applied
50	19-Jun-19	Cover email info to Hon Parker on Stockholm trip	Release in full	
50.1	19-Jun-19	Email attachment: Information to Minister Parker on Stockholm trip	Release in full	
51	Undated	Airfares invoices	Released in full Note, out of scope information has been removed	
52	Undated	Accommodation invoices	Release in part Note, out of scope information has been removed	S9(2)(a) - To protect the privacy of natural persons
53	Undated	Travel fees invoices	Released in full Note, out of scope information has been removed	
54	Undated	Incidentals allowance – VR	Release in full	
55	Undated	Incidentals allowance – PK	Release in full	
56	Undated	Incidentals allowance - MP	Release in full	
57	Undated	Accommodation fees invoices	Released in full Note, out of scope information has been removed	

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the Official Information Act 1982