

19-D-01477

13 AUG 2019

s 9(2)(a)

New Zealand Taxpayers' Union
s 9(2)@taxpayers.org.nz

Dear s 9(2)(a)

Thank you for your email of 16 July requesting the following under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

I am interested in the Ministry's expenditure on keep-cups

- *Please provide, for the last 24 months:*
- *The number of keep-cups purchased by the Ministry of Environment.*
- *The total amount spent on keep-cups over this period.*
- *A basic explanation of how the keep-cups are distributed (i.e. are they purchased for staff, or event giveaways etc).*
- *Any information the Ministry holds on how many time a keep-cup must be re-used before it has a net positive environmental effect compared to a single-use cup.*

The number of keep-cups purchased by the Ministry of Environment.

The Ministry for the Environment has not purchased any keep cups in the last 24 months.

The total amount spent on keep-cups over this period.

The Ministry for the Environment has not purchased any keep cups. However, when we sponsored the recent Local Government New Zealand (LGNZ) Conference 2019 we selected the 'waste reduction' sponsorship package, which included reusable hot drink cups and a rinse station, at a cost of \$9,200.

We chose this package because it would result in waste reduction at the event and aligns with the government's work programme to transition to a circular economy aimed at minimising waste and making the most of resources.

We support and partner with LGNZ as they help implement a significant amount of environmental policy at a local level.

A basic explanation of how the keep-cups are distributed (i.e. are they purchased for staff, or event giveaways etc).

The Ministry for the Environment has not purchased any reusable hot drink cups for staff. We encourage the use of regular ceramic mugs as a sustainable option and many of our staff already have their own reusable hot drink cups.

LGNZ Conference organisers were responsible for distribution of the reusable hot drink cups at their conference.

Any information the Ministry holds on how many time a keep-cup must be re-used before it has a net positive environmental effect compared to a single-use cup.

Ministry for the Environment does not hold any relevant information.

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.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Claire Richardson', with a large loop at the end.

Claire Richardson
Deputy Secretary, Organisational Performance

Released under the provision of
the Official Information Act 1982