

23 August 2019

19-D-01571

s 9(2)(a)

@mediaworks.co.nz

Dear s 9(2)(a)

Thank you for your email of 26 July 2019 requesting the following under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

- 1. Does the Government track the greenhouse gas emissions of officials, diplomats and MPs in the areas of vehicle travel, air travel, energy, industrial processing and waste?*
- 2. What measures are being taken to better understand and track the greenhouse gas emissions created by officials, diplomats and MPs when it comes to vehicle travel, air travel, energy, industrial processing and waste?*
- 3. What proportion of New Zealand's emissions profile does the Government directly contribute too through vehicle travel, air travel, energy, industrial processing and waste?*
- 4. What is the established policy when it comes to offsetting domestic and international air-travel emissions for New Zealand MPs, officials and diplomats?*
- 5. How much is spent annually on offsetting GHG emissions from domestic and international air travel for New Zealand MPs, officials and diplomats?*

On 9 August 2019, the Ministry sent you an email informing you that the parts of your request pertaining to the emissions generated by diplomats was transferred to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT). MFAT will respond to this part of your request.

The Ministry has been advised by the Parliamentary Service that information regarding emissions generated by members of Parliament (MPs) can be sent to the Parliamentary Service directly. As the Parliamentary Service is not subject to The Act, the Ministry is unable to transfer this request. However, we understand you may have already contacted the Parliamentary Service.

The following government initiatives may also be of interest:

Reducing government fleet emissions: <https://www.procurement.govt.nz/broader-outcomes/reducing-emissions-and-waste/reducing-government-fleet-emissions/>

Process Heat in New Zealand (PHiNZ): <https://www.eeca.govt.nz/energy-use-in-new-zealand/energy-focus-areas/process-heat/>

Government Procurement Rules (4th edition): <https://www.procurement.govt.nz/broader-outcomes/reducing-emissions-and-waste/>

The Ministry does not hold information about an overall emissions profile or offsetting policies across Government. We are therefore refusing these parts of your request under section 18(g) of the Act, as the information requested is not held by the Ministry.

The Ministry is able to provide you information about its own air travel, resultant carbon produced, and verification through the Certified Emissions Measurement and Reduction Scheme (CEMARS). The CEMARS certification is publicly available on the Enviro-mark website. The Ministry's CEMARS certification also outlines, among other goals, a commitment to reduce travel emissions by 20% by 2020.

This certification for the 2017/18 year can be found at the following link:
<https://www.enviro-mark.com/our-members/members/ministry-for-the-environment>

Please note that the figures for the 2018/19 year are currently being finalised, and we anticipate those will be published on the Enviro-mark website in the next month.

The Ministry for the Environment does not currently offset carbon emissions from staff air travel. The Ministry's primary focus to date has been on minimising its carbon footprint. However, the Ministry is currently reviewing this.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Office of the Ombudsman of my response 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



Vicki Connor
Director, Communications and Engagement