

19-D-02200

s 9(2)(a)

Office of Hon Judith Collins, MP for Papakura
s 9(2)(a) [@parliament.govt.nz](mailto:judith.collins@parliament.govt.nz)

Dear Julia,

Thank you for your email of 27 September requesting the following under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

- *The actual (so far) and expected costs of the Resource Management Act (RMA) overhaul panel (led by Tony Randerson)*
- *Also, what progress, if any, has been made on the overhaul of the Resource Management Act 1991?*

Actual and expected costs of the Resource Management Review including the costs of the Panel

The Government has allocated up to \$3.48 million for the comprehensive review of the resource management system in Budget 2019. There are two stages that this funds; stage 1 includes the Resource Management Amendment Bill and stage 2 includes the resource management review panel chaired by Hon Randerson QC.

The Resource Management Review Panel is an appointed body that the Crown has an interest in. The State Services Commission has set standards for remunerating the Panel through the Fees Framework for members appointed to bodies in which the Crown has an interest (CO (19)1). This framework categorises the Panel as Group 4 and the daily rate of remuneration is consistent with this Framework.

Information relating to the specific remuneration rate of Panel members should be withheld under section 9(2) (a) of the Act. The withholding of the information is necessary to protect the privacy of natural persons.

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.

Withholding this information is consistent with previous decisions made by the Ombudsman on releasing salary information through the Official Information Act 1982.

Progress on Stage 1: the RM Amendment Bill

Stage 1 involving the Resource Management Amendment Bill is before the Environment Select Committee. Submissions will close on the Resource Management Amendment Bill on 7 November.

The Environment Select Committee intends to hear submissions through November/December, and will then consider any changes and report back to the House by late March 2020. More information about the progress of the Bill is publicly available through:

https://www.parliament.nz/en/pb/bills-and-laws/bills-proposedlaws/document/BILL_91358/resource-management-amendment-bill.

Progress on Stage 2: the Review Panel

In addition to the RM Amendment Bill, progress is being made on the comprehensive review of the resource management system. The Minister for the Environment launched this on the 24 July and announced Tony Randerson QC as the chair of the Resource Management Review Panel. Rachel Brooking, Dean Kimpton, Amelia Linzey, Raewyn Peart MNZM and Kevin Prime MBE ONZM were appointed by the Minister in September.

At the date of your request, the Panel had met twice and is working towards an Issues and Options paper to the Minister in November.

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 will publish responses to most of our requests for official information on our web site on our OIA responses page shortly after the response has been sent to you.

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



Yours sincerely

Simon King

Director, Natural and Built System

Released under the Provision of
the Official Information Act 1982