

s 9(2)(a)

19-D-02434

Dear s 9(2)(a)

Thank you for your email of 23 October 2019 requesting the following under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

Between 2005 and 2009 the Ministry for the environment ran the Govt3 programme that helped government organisations take practical steps to reduce their impact on the environment. I would like to make an official information request for the following information regarding any programmes/requirements started by this government to reduce the environmental impacts of government agencies practices;

- 1) *Has the government introduced any programmes or requirements for central government agencies since taking office?*
- 2) *What are these programmes or requirements?*
- 3) *What are there stated aims/goals?*
- 4) *What resources have been provided to assist government agencies meet these aims/goals?*
- 4) *(sic) If no programmes or requirements have been introduced does the government intend to introduce any and what would there aims/goals be?*

In relation to questions 1-4 of your request the information you have requested is publicly available at the addresses listed below, therefore your request is refused under section 18(d) of the Act.

The current Government has introduced several new programmes and requirements that fall within scope. The information regarding these is also publicly available.

This year, very recently, the State Services Commission (SSC) issued Expectations on Statutory Crown Entities in an Enduring Letter of Expectation (ELOE). This document communicated SSC's expectation that:

"We expect the State sector to lead by example by taking active steps to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, improve energy efficiency and reduce waste outputs."

The letter is available on the SSC website: <https://ssc.govt.nz/resources/enduring-letter-of-expectations-to-statutory-crown-entities-2019/>. Clarification as to how the ELOE fits with Crown entity governance and roles is also available on the SSC website: <https://ssc.govt.nz/our-work/crown-entities/>

The new 4th Government Procurement rules have also introduced the broader outcome to reduce emissions and waste. The following website includes some guidance relating to transitioning to a net zero emissions economy and designing waste out of the system: <https://www.procurement.govt.nz/broader-outcomes/reducing-emissions-and-waste/> and <https://www.mbie.govt.nz/about/news/government-procurement-rules-4th-edition-released/>

Information relating to the goal for reducing government fleet vehicle emissions can be found at the following website: <https://www.procurement.govt.nz/broader-outcomes/reducing-emissions-and-waste/reducing-government-fleet-emissions/>

You may find this evaluation of the Govt3 programme also of interest, available at the following address:

[http://media.cbsm.com/comments/169056/New Zealand Govt3 programme lessons learned 2003-2008.pdf](http://media.cbsm.com/comments/169056/New_Zealand_Govt3_programme_lessons_learned_2003-2008.pdf)

Sustainability at the Ministry for the Environment

Information relating to the Ministry's own sustainability strategy and targets is available in our latest Annual report 2018/19 which can be accessed at: <https://www.mfe.govt.nz/publications/about-us/ministry-environment-annual-report-2019>

Our sustainability strategy commits us to measuring, reducing and reporting on our emissions profile and having it externally verified. We are also committed to emissions reduction goals on our travel (20 per cent), head office energy use (10 per cent), and waste to landfill (50 per cent).

In late 2018, we obtained our Certified Emissions Measurement and Reduction Scheme (CEMARS) certificate through Toitū Envirocare's accreditation scheme. Our emissions profile is publicly available here: <https://www.enviro-mark.com/our-members/members/ministry-for-the-environment>

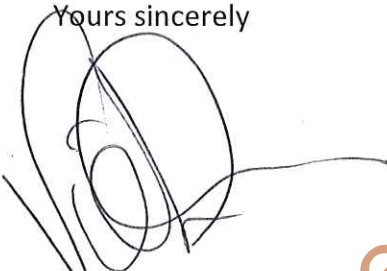
Three Government departments (EECA, MfE and the Environmental Protection Agency) are certified through Toitū Envirocare's CEMARS (Certified Emissions Measurement and Reduction Scheme) programme. The CEMARS programme measures an organisation's operational emissions generated through business travel, vehicles, fuel and electricity, paper, and waste. Departments that are CEMARS certified must make a commitment to reduce their emissions.

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 [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 at ministerials@mfe.govt.nz.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Vicki Connor', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Vicki Connor
Director, Partnerships and Engagement

Released under the provisions of
the Official Information Act 1982