

31 JAN 2020

19-D-02745

s 9(2)(a)

Dear s 9(2)(a)

Thank you for your email of 18 December 2019 requesting the following under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

- 1. Are any parts or teams within your organisation required to translate any content (digitally or in hard copy, or interpreting in person)? If so, where do these requirements originate?*
- 2. Which parts or teams translate content for external, digital channels? Including, static webpages, digital publications, information campaigns, social media, multimedia, emails etc.*
- 3. Are there any guidance, policies, processes or documents on how to translate? Including any project plans, technical specifications and review processes?*
- 4. What is the organisation doing to specifically encourage Te Reo translation?*
- 5. How is the content translated? What is the process for selecting languages? Who translates the material?*
- 6. Are there any future plans to increase translated materials? Who would approve this?*

The Ministry for the Environment (the Ministry) does have staff who are qualified as translators and who can provide translation services, however the Ministry does not have an internal translation service or policy and procures the majority of translation services externally from a general register of translators provided by Te Taura Whiri i te Reo Māori (Māori Language Commission) or a field expert identified by a partner agency such as the Department of Internal Affairs Translation Service for non-Te Reo translations.

While individual translation decisions are made on a case-by-case basis, in 2019, strengthening the Ministry's Te Ao Māori capability was identified as one of the three organisational focus. The Te Ao Māori strategy will continue our journey to ensure the Ministry can be confident in our coordinated, long-term engagement with Māori and incorporation of Māori views and te reo Māori into our work and public engagement. The Ministry will develop a te reo Māori translation policy as part of this commitment.

As the Ministry does not have any specific written policy on translation services, we are refusing your request under section 18(e) of the Official Information Act, as the document alleged to contain the information requested does not exist.

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 (<https://www.mfe.govt.nz/about-us/official-information-act-requests>) 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 at ministerials@mfe.govt.nz.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Justin Strang', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Justin Strang
Head of the Office of the Chief Executive