

19-D-0397

- 3 MAY 2019

s 9(2)(a)

Dear s 9(2)(a)

Thank you for your request, transferred from the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet on 6 March 2019 for the following under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

*On 20 March 2000, Cabinet approved an inquiry into genetic modification. Please send me all records held about this meeting. Also, please send me all records held in regards to a possible inquiry into GM, dated between 1 January 2000 to 30 April 2000.*

On 2 April 2019 we advised you of an extension to the statutory response time for your request, to allow for Cabinet Office to identify the papers relating to the 20 March Cabinet meeting and for copies to be requested and retrieved from their National Archives records.

The Ministry for the Environment has identified ten documents in scope of your request, as listed in the attached table. Some information within these documents has been withheld under the following sections of the Act:

9(2)(a) to protect information the privacy of a natural person.


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.

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](http://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



**Justin Strang**  
Acting Director

**List of documents**

<b>Document no.</b>	<b>Document date</b>	<b>Content</b>	<b>Decisions</b>	<b>OIA sections applied</b>
1	23 February 2000	Cabinet Committee Minute – FIN (00) M 3/7  Royal Commission into genetic modification and moratorium	Release in full	None
2	28 February 2000	Cabinet Minute – CAB (00) M6/5  Royal Commission into genetic modification and moratorium	Release in full	None
3	15 March 2000	Cabinet Committee Minute – FIN (00) M 6/47  Royal Commission into genetic modification and moratorium	Release in full	None
4	15 March 2000	Cabinet Committee Paper – FIN (00) 26  Royal Commission into genetic modification and moratorium	Release in full	None
5	20 March 2000	Cabinet Minute – CAB (00) M9/4  Royal Commission into genetic modification and moratorium	Release in full	None

Released under the provision of the Official Information Act 1982

6	5 April 2000	Cabinet Committee Minute – FIN (00) M 9/5  Royal Commission into genetic modification: draft terms of reference, funding issues and further moratorium conditions	Release in full	None
7	5 April 2000	Cabinet Committee Paper – FIN (00) 65  Royal Commission into genetic modification: draft terms of reference, funding issues and further moratorium conditions	Release in full	None
8	10 April 2000	Cabinet Minute – CAB (00) M 12/10  Royal Commission into genetic modification: draft terms of reference, funding issues and further moratorium conditions	Release in full	None
9	12 April 2000	Cabinet Committee Minute and associated paper – APH (00) M 6/6  Royal Commission into genetic modification: progress on appointments	Release in part	S9(2)(a) - To protect the privacy of a natural person
10	17 April 2000	Cabinet Minute and associated paper – CAB (00) M 13/10  Royal Commission into genetic modification: appointments	Release in part	S9(2)(a) - To protect the privacy of a natural person

Note: due to file size, please email [ministerials@mfe.govt.nz](mailto:ministerials@mfe.govt.nz) for copies of the documents released