

20-D-01435

s 9(2)(a)

Stuff

s 9(2)(a)@stuff.co.nz

Dear s 9(2)(a)

Thank you for your email of 4 August 2020 requesting the following under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

*I am requesting a breakdown of all Ministry for the Environment staff who have gone on overseas work trips since March 20.*

*For any trips which have taken place, please outline the following:*

- \* Staff member's job title*
- \* Destination(s)*
- \* Purpose and length of trip (in days), including why a foreign trip was preferred over digital meetings over the internet*
- \* Total cost of trip including but not limited to flights, accommodation, incidental costs like food and transport, and any potential quarantine costs*
- \* Please also indicate whether any person required managed isolation/quarantine upon their return to New Zealand, and whether or not the Ministry paid for this*

*If you believe another government agency holds information relevant to this request, I ask that you pass this request on to it and notify me immediately that this action has been taken.*

*If there is anything in the spirit of this request that hasn't been specifically asked for, but could be relevant to it, I ask that you include this detail in your response.*

The Ministry for the Environment has no record of any overseas work trips since March 2020. Therefore, we are refusing your request under section 18(e) of the Act because the information requested does not exist.

The Ministry's current policy regarding travel, which was also in place during the other levels of lock-down, is "that travel should not be undertaken unless the business reasons for necessity of travel and a full assessment of the individual and their current physical health are approved by the MfE's

leadership team. MfE remains in a no non-essential travel period with preference to defer or decline travel.”

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Office of the Ombudsman of my decision 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 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: [ministerials@mfe.govt.nz](mailto:ministerials@mfe.govt.nz).

Yours sincerely



Mike Porter  
Chief Information Officer

Released under the provision of  
the Official Information Act 1982