

12 October 2020

20-D-01669

s9(2)(a)

Dear s9(2)(a)

Thank you for your email of 27 August 2020 requesting the following under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

*Could you please tell me the names of the initiators of the National Policy Statement on Urban Development?*

*Also, when was it discussed in Parliament?*

On 2 September 2020, the Ministry contacted you to clarify the scope of your request. On 15 September 2020, you responded to clarify:

*Names of politicians who initiated the National Policy Statement on Urban Development, and the date it became a policy (with the UN that policy is different to law, right).*

*Names of politicians who signed NZ up for the United Nations plan for "Sustainable Development", and date it became a focus for NZ national future.*

As the information you have requested is publicly available, the Ministry for the Environment is refusing your request under the following section of the Act:

18(d) that the information requested is or will soon be publicly available.

The National Policy Statement on Urban Development (NPS-UD) was initiated by the Urban Development Minister, Hon Phil Twyford, and the Minister for the Environment, Hon David Parker. The NPS-UD was approved by the Governor-General on 20 July 2020, announced on 23 July 2020, and came into force on 20 August 2020.

You can find more information on the NPS-UD at: <https://www.mfe.govt.nz/about-national-policy-statement-urban-development> and [www.beehive.govt.nz/release/new-rules-help-our-cities-grow-and-out](http://www.beehive.govt.nz/release/new-rules-help-our-cities-grow-and-out).

There are also a number of published Cabinet papers and briefings related to the NPS-UD, including information on consultation and development that may be of interest to you. You can find these at:

- [www.mfe.govt.nz/more/briefings-cabinet-papers-and-related-material-search/cabinet-papers/public-consultation](http://www.mfe.govt.nz/more/briefings-cabinet-papers-and-related-material-search/cabinet-papers/public-consultation)
- [www.mfe.govt.nz/node/26945](http://www.mfe.govt.nz/node/26945)
- <https://tinyurl.com/y4l7wv9x>

*Transforming our World: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development* was unanimously adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on 25 September 2015. The New Zealand Government was represented by the then Minister for Foreign Affairs, Hon Murray McCully, during the adoption of the 2030 Agenda by United Nations Member States. Since the 2030 Agenda is a non-binding declaration rather than a legally binding obligation on States, its implementation does not require consideration in Parliament.

You can find more information about the Agenda at: <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/post2015/transformingourworld/publication>

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Office of the Ombudsman of my decision to refuse 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



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