



20-D-01786

19 October 2020

s 9(2)(a)

Palmerston North City Council

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Dear s 9(2)(a)

Thank you for your email of 21 September 2020 to the Ministry for the Environment (the Ministry) requesting the following under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

Under section 12 of the Official Information Act 1982, Palmerston North City Council requests the following information:

-The total amount of all MFE related funding that has been allocated towards Palmerston North in comparison to other cities in New Zealand over the last 5 years, and high-level information on what this funding has been for and when it has been allocated/provided.

-The total amount of all MFE related funding that has been allocated towards the Manawatu-Wanganui region in comparison to other regions in New Zealand over the last 5 years, and information on what this funding has been for, and when it has been allocated/provided.

The Ministry contacted you via email on 21 September 2020 to refine the scope of your request. You responded on 25 September 2020, advising:

The request doesn't seek any documents with mention of Palmerston North and funding, it's just after the figures of the funding, which I hope will make it easier. MfE's team that looks after the budget might have a good understanding of what has been approved/what funds MfE have (e.g waste levy related funds)/where they have been distributed. I've attached the OIA response we received from NZTA who had a nearly identical request, if it's helpful at all to see what one of the previous responses has looked like.

The Ministry does hold the information you have requested however it is not stored in a single place, rather it sits across multiple areas of the Ministry and would take a significant amount of time to collate. As such, your request is refused under the following section of the Act:

18(f) - that the information requested cannot be made available without substantial collation or research.

However, should you wish to make a subsequent targeted request for a particular area of funding, you can contact us via: info@mfe.govt.nz

Please find below some reporting and financial information about the Ministry which is publicly available, which may be of assistance to your request:

- The Ministry's annual report 2019 - www.mfe.govt.nz/publications/about-us/ministry-environment-annual-report-2019

- The Government's Budget 2020 - www.treasury.govt.nz/publications/budgets/budget-2020
- Estimates section 2020/21 of the Budget
<https://www.treasury.govt.nz/sites/default/files/2020-05/est20-v3-envir.pdf>
- Supplementary Estimates for 2019/20 of the Budget
<https://www.treasury.govt.nz/sites/default/files/2020-05/suppest20envir.pdf>

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: ministerials@mfe.govt.nz.

Yours sincerely



Arun Patel
Director, Finance and Performance

Released under the provisions of the Official Information Act 1982