

20-D-02118

27 November 2020

s 9(2)(a)

Dear s 9(2)(a)

Thank you for your letter dated 20 February 2020 to the Ministry for the Environment (the Ministry) requesting the following:

*Could you please send me four hard copies of the following documentations, with relevant information:*

- *Hazardous substances assessments – improving decision-making*
- *The National Biodiversity statement*
- *And an information/documentations on heavy metals / caseinogenics*

The Ministry logged your request for official information under the Official Information Act 1982 on 5 November 2020. We apologise for the delay in responding to you.

The Ministry has identified four documents in scope of your request, as listed in the attached table. Please note that:

- The Ministry's Environmental Risk team has interpreted "caseinogenics" to mean "carcinogenics" (cancer-causing substances).
- *Hazardous substances assessments: Improving decision-making* is a discussion document. Submissions closed on 30 September 2019.
- The *National Policy Statement for Indigenous Biodiversity* is due to be finalised in April 2021. Submissions on the draft closed on 14 March 2020.
- *Heavy metals, black carbon and natural sources of particulate matter in New Zealand* is the only document on the Ministry's website that is specifically about heavy metals.
- *Dioxins, furans and PCBs* is the only page on the Ministry's website that discusses carcinogenic substances.

If you have specific questions about these topics that are not answered by the enclosed information, please contact us to make a new request. You may also wish to contact the Environmental Protection Authority (ph 04 916 2426) or the Ministry of Health (ph 0800 855 066) for further information on heavy metals or carcinogens.

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

Yours sincerely



p.p. Debbie Bell  
**Manager, Ministerial Services**

Released under the provisions of the Official Information Act 1982

**Document schedule**

<b>Document no.</b>	<b>Document date</b>	<b>Content</b>	<b>Decisions</b>	<b>OIA sections applied</b>
1	August 2019	<i>Hazardous substances assessments: Improving decision-making</i>	Release in full	16(1)(b) providing a copy of the document, and 16(2) to make the information available in the way preferred by the person requesting it
2	November 2019	<i>Draft National Policy Statement for Indigenous Biodiversity</i>	Release in full	16(1)(b) providing a copy of the document, and 16(2) to make the information available in the way preferred by the person requesting it
3	October 2018	<i>Heavy metals, black carbon and natural sources of particulate matter in New Zealand</i>	Release in full	16(1)(b) providing a copy of the document, and 16(2) to make the information available in the way preferred by the person requesting it
4	October 2018	<i>Dioxins, furans and PCBs</i>	Release in full	16(1)(b) providing a copy of the document, and 16(2) to make the information available in the way preferred by the person requesting it

Released under the provisions of the Official Information Act 1982