

20-D-02144

s(9)(2)(a)

Dear s(9)(2)(a)

Thank you for your email of 6 November 2020 requesting the following under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

In fulfilling its international obligations under UNFCCC (Article 4 para 1.a. of the Convention), New Zealand submits its Greenhouse Gas Inventory to the UN. The submission is made in the standardised MS Excel based "CRF" or Common Reporting Format. In addition to MS Excel format of the inventory, the government also submits a machine readable "Simple XML" file. UNFCCC is publishing all submitted Excel files on its web site (<https://unfccc.int/ghg-inventories-annex-i-parties/2020>) but not the XML files.

I would like to request the XML files containing New Zealand's machine readable GHG inventories that the government submitted to UNFCCC in 2017, 2018, 2019, and 2020. It will probably be most convenient for you to provide the complete submission archives as submitted to UNFCCC (CRF Excel files for each inventory year + one XML file)

As you are aware, the Ministry for the Environment (the Ministry) submits Greenhouse Gas Inventory data to the United Nations Framework for Climate Change (UNFCCC) in Excel format. The Simple XML file that is also submitted is produced by the UNFCCC's database. While the Ministry submits XML files, we do not have the software to produce, open or edit files in this format. They are only held by the Ministry in order to be submitted as part of UNFCCC obligations.

The Ministry is unable to access and review the XML files you have requested, therefore they cannot be prepared for release. In order to review these files, the Ministry would need to access the appropriate software and review the data for each submission. For this reason, we are refusing your request under section 18(f) of the Act, as the information requested cannot be made available without substantial collation or research.

While the Ministry is unable to provide the information you have requested, you may be interested in the other data the Ministry provides to the UNFCCC, which is publicly available on our website. The data currently published for the requested years is outlined below:

Submission year	Submission time period	File	Link
2017	1990-2015	CRF summary data	https://www.mfe.govt.nz/publications/climate-change/new-zealands-greenhouse-gas-inventory-1990%E2%80%932015
2018	1990-2016	CRF summary data	https://www.mfe.govt.nz/publications/climate-change/new-zealands-greenhouse-gas-inventory-1990%E2%80%932016
2019	1990-2017	CRF summary data	https://www.mfe.govt.nz/publications/climate-change/new-zealands-greenhouse-gas-inventory-1990-2017
2020	1990-2018	Time series emissions data by category [Excel file (xlsx), 1.4 MB]	https://www.mfe.govt.nz/publications/climate-change/new-zealands-greenhouse-gas-inventory-1990-2018
2020	1990-2018	Summary emissions data [Excel file (xlsx), 40 KB]	https://www.mfe.govt.nz/publications/climate-change/new-zealands-greenhouse-gas-inventory-1990-2018

Note the estimates of emissions and/or removals within each of these files differ from emissions and/or removals reported in inventory submissions for the other years. This is because the inventory follows a process of continuous improvement as per the UNFCCC principles. When improvements are made, the whole time series, from 1990 to the current inventory year, is recalculated to ensure a consistent time series.

These improvements follow recommendations from international expert review teams, correcting errors and implementing additional changes planned by the agencies involved in preparing the inventory. The improvements are outlined in Chapter 10 of corresponding National Inventory Report for each submission year. These are available on the UNFCCC website.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Office of the Ombudsman of my decisions 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.

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 Ministerial Services team: ministerials@mfe.govt.nz.

Yours sincerely



Katherine Wilson
Director, Climate Change Adaptation and Evidence

Document schedule

Document no.	Document date	Content	Decisions	OIA sections applied
1	15 April 2020	New Zealand Greenhouse Gas Inventory 1990 – 2018 (Simple XML)	Refused	Section 18(f)
2	10 April 2019	New Zealand Greenhouse Gas Inventory 1990 – 2017 (Simple XML)	Refused	Section 18(f)
3	12 April 2018	New Zealand Greenhouse Gas Inventory 1990 – 2016 (Simple XML)	Refused	Section 18(f)
4	26 May 2017	New Zealand Greenhouse Gas Inventory 1990 – 2015 (Simple XML)	Refused	Section 18(f)