

20-D-02148

s9(2)(a)

Dear s9(2)(a)

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

whether or not the Ministry for the Environment has any information, such as, correspondence, emails, reports, meeting minutes or phone conversations between MfE and any other entity regarding Tiwai Point smelter waste.

On 5 November, the Ministry contacted you to refine the scope of your request, as it was too broad and could not be responded to in a reasonable timeframe. On 6 November, you responded with a refined scope:

I request all Ministry for the Environment information; such as, correspondence, emails, reports, meeting minutes or phone conversations between MfE and any other entity regarding Tiwai Point smelter waste between 01 JAN 1994 and 31 DEC 2013 regarding hazardous waste or spent: pot, cell or cathode liner.

Even with the refined scope, the Ministry's searches returned more than 1000 electronic documents potentially in scope of your request. There will also be physical copies of archived documents in scope, however a physical search was not initiated due to the amount of material captured in the search of electronic records.

Due to the volume of material, the Ministry is unable to respond to your request in a timely manner. Therefore, your request is refused under section 18(f) of the Act, as the information cannot be made available without substantial collation and research.

You are welcome to submit a new, more targeted, request under the Act.

A Principal Analyst at the Ministry, Bruce Croucher, is available to speak to you about Tiwai Point, including discussing a smaller timeframe for a request or a more specific area of interest. He can be contacted at bruce.croucher@mfe.govt.nz or on 022 592 2826.

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 its 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

Electronically approved by Shaun Lewis

Shaun Lewis
Director, Waste and Resource Efficiency

Released under the provision of
the Official Information Act 1982