

20-D-01236

9(2)(a)

Tēnā koe <sup>9(2)(a)</sup>

Thank you for your tweet of 1 July 2020 requesting the following under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

*Any information on the percentage of New Zealand plastic bags that end up in the sea.*

The Ministry for the Environment only receives data on plastic waste tonnage from landfills. It does not hold data on the percentage of plastic bags that end up in the sea. Therefore, we are refusing your request under section 18(g) of the Act, as the information requested is not held by the Ministry, and we do not believe the information is held by another organisation. There is, however, the citizen science litter intelligence programme, which may be of interest to you. More information is available at: <https://litterintelligence.org/insights/>.

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).

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Nāku noa, nā



Shaun Lewis  
Director – System Change and Investments, Waste and Resource Efficiency