



OIAD-1099

19 August 2024

9(2)(a)

9(2)(a)

Dear 9(2)(a)

Thank you for your email of 23 May 2024 requesting the following under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

- 1. all documents (including but not limited to nomination forms, applications, briefing papers, file notes, reports, meeting minutes or notes, and memoranda), and all communications (including but not limited to meeting notes or minutes, records of telephone calls and any electronic communications via email, SMS, messaging apps e.g. WhatsApp) relating to the nomination by agencies and process of appointment by Ministers of each member of the FPAG. Communications material should include information on the parties, the date and time, and a summary of the matters discussed;*
- 2. all communications (including but not limited to meeting notes or minutes, records of telephone calls and any electronic communications via email, SMS, messaging apps e.g. WhatsApp), between Ministers and each person considered for membership of the FPAG between the date on which the Minister took office and today's date, where not captured by the above request at 1;*
- 3. all communications between agencies and each person considered for membership of the FPAG, where not captured by the above request at 1;*
- 4. all information about any remuneration and any other benefits that each member of the FPAG will receive for being on the FPAG, where not captured by the above request at 1;*
- 5. information about the term for which each member of the FPAG is appointed, where not captured by the above request at 1;*
- 6. information about how conflicts of interest for the FPAG are managed, where not captured by the above request at 1.*

On 21 June 2024, the Ministry for the Environment (the Ministry) extended the timeframes in responding to your request under the following sections of the Act:

- 15A(1)(a) of the Act, as the request is for a large quantity of official information and necessitates a search through a large quantity of information and meeting the original time limit would unreasonably interfere with the operations of the department.
- 15A(1)(b) of the Act, as consultations necessary to make a decision on the request are such that a proper response cannot reasonably be made within the original timeframe.

On 21 June 2024, the Ministry notified you that the following part of your request was transferred under section 14(b)(ii) of the Act, as this part of the request is more closely connected with the functions of the office of the Minister Responsible for RM Reform:

all communications (including but not limited to meeting notes or minutes, records of telephone calls and any electronic communications via email, SMS, messaging apps e.g. WhatsApp), between Ministers and each person considered for membership of the FPAG between the date on which the Minister took office and today's date

On 25 June 2024, the Ministry provided a partial response of your request for the following parts:

all information about any remuneration and any other benefits that each member of the FPAG will receive for being on the FPAG, where not captured by the above request at 1;

information about the term for which each member of the FPAG is appointed, where not captured by the above request at 1;

information about how conflicts of interest for the FPAG are managed, where not captured by the above request at 1.

These parts were refused under section 18(d) of the Act, as the information is publicly available on the Ministry's website here: [Fast-track Projects Advisory Group](#).

The Ministry would provide a response for the remaining parts of your request:

all documents (including but not limited to nomination forms, applications, briefing papers, file notes, reports, meeting minutes or notes, and memoranda), and all communications (including but not limited to meeting notes or minutes, records of telephone calls and any electronic communications via email, SMS, messaging apps e.g. WhatsApp) relating to the nomination by agencies and process of appointment by Ministers of each member of the FPAG. Communications material should include information on the parties, the date and time, and a summary of the matters discussed;

all communications between agencies and each person considered for membership of the FPAG, where not captured by the above request at 1;

On 25 June 2024, the Ministry contacted you due to the broad nature for part one of your request. This part was deemed to be substantial and the time required to collate and analyse the volume of information would be significant and may impact the Ministry's ability to carry out other operations. On 2 July 2024, you provided the following refinement:

I'm really looking for documents and communications that provide insight into how the members of the FPAG were "nominated" by agencies and appointed by Ministers – ie communications about the initial list, the process to get that list, and then any further shortlisting, and participation / decisions by Ministers in the selection process

A search of the Ministry's information system found 111 documents within the refined scope for part one of your request as listed in the attached document schedule. Some information has been withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the Act, to protect the privacy of natural persons.

Please note that, regarding part three of your request, the Ministry can only provide material we hold, and therefore cannot provide material held by any other agency.

I am satisfied that, in the circumstances, the withholding of this information is not outweighed by other considerations that render it desirable to make the information available in the public interest.

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

Yours sincerely

Electronically approved by Stephanie Frame

Stephanie Frame

Manager – Fast-Track Consenting
Ministry for the Environment | Manatū Mō Te Taiao

Document schedule

Document no.	Document date	Content	Decisions	OIA sections applied
1	5/3/24	Email: RE: Fast Track Consenting Approvals Bill – Ministerial Advisory Group Conflicts of Interests	Released in Full	NA
2	7/3/24	Email: Names for Listed Projects Panel	Released in Part	9(2)(a)
3	8/3/24	Email: Names for Listed Projects Panel	Released in Part	9(2)(a)
4	8/3/24	Email: Names for Listed Projects Panel	Released in Part	9(2)(a)
5	8/3/24	Email: Names for Listed Projects Panel	Released in Part	9(2)(a)
6	8/3/24	Email: Names for Listed Projects Panel	Released in Full	NA
7	8/3/24	Email: Names for Listed Projects Panel – Ministry for Cultural Heritage	Released in Part	9(2)(a)
8	8/3/24	Email: Names for Listed Projects Panel	Released in Part	9(2)(a)
9	8/3/24	Email: Names for Listed Projects Panel	Released in Part	9(2)(a)
10	8/3/24	Email: Names for Listed Projects Panel	Released in Part	9(2)(a)
11	8/3/24	Email: For Feedback: Draft Cabinet Paper and Long List of	Released in Part	9(2)(a)

		agency nominations		
12	83/24	Email: Listed Project Panel nominations	Released in Part	9(2)(a)
13	11/3/24	Email: For Feedback by 10am confirmation of agency nominations	Released in Part	9(2)(a)
14	11/3/24	Email: FW: BRF-4408 Fast-track Consenting-Listed Projects Draft Cabinet Paper (1).	Released in Part	9(2)(a)
15	11/3/24	Email: FW: BRF-4408 Fast-track Consenting-Listed Projects Draft Cabinet Paper (1).	Released in Part	9(2)(a)
16	11/3/24	Email: FW: For Feedback: Draft Cabinet paper & Long list of agency nominations Due 8am Monday 11 March at the latest	Released in Part	9(2)(a)
17	11/3/24	Email: FW: Listed Project Panel - names	Released in Part	9(2)(a)
18	11/3/24	Email: Names for Listed Projects Panel by 9am Friday	Released in Part	9(2)(a)
19	11/3/24	Email: Nominations for Advisory Group	Released in Part	9(2)(a)
20	11/3/24	Email: For Feedback: Draft	Released in Part	9(2)(a)

		Cabinet paper & Long list of agency nominations Due 8am		
21	11/3/24	Email: BRF- 4408 Fast-track Consenting- Listed Projects Draft Cabinet Paper (1)	Released in Part	9(2)(a)
22	12/3/24	Email: Candidate shortlist for Ministers office	Released in Part	9(2)(a)
23	12/3/24	Email: Candidate shortlist for Ministers office	Released in Part	9(2)(a)
24	12/3/24	Email: For Endorsement: Nominee shortlist as discussed this morning Feedback	Released in Part	9(2)(a)
25	12/3/24	Email: Key messages: DCE Fast-track Governance meeting #9	Released in Part Out of Scope information Redacted	NA
26	12/3/24	Email: RE: Updated appointees list	Released in Part	9(2)(a)
27	12/3/24	Email: For Endorsement: Nominee shortlist as discussed this morning Feedback	Released in Part	9(2)(a)
28	12/3/24	Email: RE: Updated appointees list	Released in Part	9(2)(a)

29	13/3/24	Email: RE: Nominee shortlist for Fast Track Projects Advisory Panel	Release in Full	NA
30	13/3/24	Email: Email to DCEs	Released in Part	9(2)(a)
31	12/3/24	Email: RE: For Endorsement: Nominee shortlist as discussed this morning Feedback by 2.30pm as due with Ministers Office this afternoon	Released in Part	9(2)(a)
32	13/3/24	Email: FW: Nominees	Release in Full	NA
33	18/3/24	Email: RE: PDATE: Update on Nominee shortlist and APH Lodgement and Action for Agencies	Release in Full	NA
34	18/3/24	Email: UPDATE: Update on Nominee shortlist and APH Lodgement and Action for agencies	Release in Full	NA
35	19/3/24	Email: Response to questions on Nominee shortlist and APH Lodgement and	Release in Full	NA

		Action for agencies		
36	19/3/24	Email: Listed projects panel	Release in Full	NA
37	19/3/24	Email: UPDATE: Update on Nominee shortlist and APH Lodgement and Action for agencies	Released in Part	9(2)(a)
38	19/3/24	Email: PDATE: Update on Nominee shortlist and APH Lodgement and Action for agencies	Released in Part	9(2)(a)
39	19/3/24	Email: UPDATE: Update on Nominee shortlist and APH Lodgement and Action for agencies	Release in Full	NA
40	19/3/24	Email: UPDATE: Update on Nominee shortlist and APH Lodgement and Action for agencies	Released in Part	9(2)(a)
41	19/3/24	Email: UPDATE: Update on Nominee shortlist and APH	Release in Full	NA

		Lodgement and Action for agencies		
42	20/3/24	Email: David Tapsell	Released in Part	9(2)(a)
43	20/3/24	Email: Comms with people nominated for Advisory Group	Release in Full	NA
44	20/3/24	Email: Update on Nominee shortlist and APH Lodgement and Action for agencies	Released in Part	9(2)(a)
45	21/3/24	Email: RE: Fast track actions from this morning	Released in Part	9(2)(a)
46	22/3/24	Email: Fast-track Approvals Bill - Ministerial Advisory Panel - Conflict of interest table	Released in Part	9(2)(a)
47	22/3/24	Email: Fast-track Approvals Bill - Ministerial Advisory Panel - Conflict of interest	Released in Part	9(2)(a)
48	22/3/24	Email: Fast-track Approvals Bill - Ministerial Advisory Panel - Conflict of interest table	Released in Part	9(2)(a)
49	22/3/24	Email: RE: Just confirming - I think these are our two additional nominees?	Released in Part	9(2)(a)

50	22/3/24	Email: RE: Update on Fast-track Listed Projects Advisory Group member confirmation	Released in Part	9(2)(a)
51	22/3/24	Email: Update on Fast-track Listed Projects Advisory Group member confirmation	Released in Part	9(2)(a)
52	24/3/24	Email: Fwd: Rosie Mercer – 2024	Released in Part	9(2)(a)
53	25/3/24	Email: FW: Rosie Mercer – 2024	Released in Part	9(2)(a)
54	25/3/24	Email: Fwd: Rosie Mercer- 2024	Released in Part	9(2)(a)
55	25/3/24	Email: e: Rosie Mercer- 2024	Released in Part	9(2)(a)
56	25/3/24	Email: RE: Fast-track Consenting Approvals Bill - Ministerial Advisory Group membership	Released in Part	9(2)(a)
57	25/3/24	Email: RE: Fast-track Approvals Bill - Ministerial Advisory Panel - Conflict of interest table	Released in Part	9(2)(a)
58	25/3/24	Email: RE: Rosie Mercer- 2024	Released in Part	9(2)(a)
59	25/3/24	Email: Fast-track Consenting	Released in Part	9(2)(a)

		Approvals Bill - Ministerial Advisory Group membership		
60	26/3/24	Email: Fast Track Consenting Approvals Bill - Ministerial Advisory Group Conflicts of Interest	Released in Part	9(2)(a)
61	26/3/24	Email: Fast Track Consenting Approvals Bill - Ministerial Advisory Group Conflicts of Interest	Release in Full	NA
62	26/3/24	Email: FW: Expert Panel - Fast Track Approval	Released in Part	9(2)(a)
63	26/3/24	Email: FW: Fast Track Consenting Approvals Bill - Ministerial Advisory Group Conflicts of Interest	Released in Part	9(2)(a)
64	26/3/24	Email: FW: OK from Willis re fee exemption	Release in Full	NA
65	26/3/24	Email: FW: Fast Track Consenting Approvals Bill - Ministerial Advisory Group Conflicts of Interest	Released in Part	9(2)(a)
66	26/3/24	Email: FW: Update on Fast-track Listed Projects	Release in Full	NA

		Advisory Group member confirmation		
67	26/3/24	Email: FW: Update on Fast-track Listed Projects Advisory Group member confirmation	Release in Full	NA
68	26/3/24	Email: NEARLY THERE - Expert Panel - Fast Track Approval	Released in Part	9(2)(a)
69	26/3/24	Email: RE: Fast Track Consenting Approvals Bill - Ministerial Advisory Group Conflicts of Interest	Released in Part	9(2)(a)
70	26/3/24	Email: RE: Update on Fast-track Listed Projects Advisory Group member confirmation	Release in Full	NA
71	26/3/24	Email: RE: Rosie Mercer-2024	Released in Part	9(2)(a)
72	26/3/24	Email: RE: Update on Fast-track Listed Projects Advisory Group member confirmation	Release in Full	NA
73	26/3/24	Email: Update on Fast-track Listed Projects Advisory Group member confirmation	Release in Full	NA

74	26/3/24	Email: Re: Update on Fast-track Listed Projects Advisory Group member confirmation	Release in Full	NA
75	27/3/24	Email: RE: Fast Track Consenting Approvals Bill - Ministerial Advisory Group Conflicts of Interest	Released in Part	9(2)(a)
76	27/3/24	Email: RE: Fast Track Consenting Approvals Bill - Ministerial Advisory Group Conflicts of Interest	Released in Part	9(2)(a)
77	27/3/24	Email: RE: Fast Track Consenting Approvals Bill - Ministerial Advisory Group Conflicts of Interest	Release in Full	NA
78	27/3/24	Email: RE: Update on Fast-track Listed Projects Advisory Group member confirmation	Release in Full	NA
79	3/4/24	Email: APH paper as lodged last week + new name	Released in Part	9(2)(a)
80	3/4/24	Email: Fast-track Approvals - Ministerial Advisory Group	Released in Part	9(2)(a)

81	3/4/24	Email: Fast-track Approvals - Ministerial Advisory Group	Released in Part	9(2)(a)
82	3/4/24	Email: Fast-track Approvals - Ministerial Advisory Group	Released in Part	9(2)(a)
83	5/4/24	Email: Email addresses for Panel members	Released in Part	9(2)(a)
84	5/4/24	Email: Re: Fast-track Approvals Bill - Ministerial Advisory Group - Update on Progress	Released in Part	9(2)(a)
85	5/4/24	Email: Re: Fast-track Approvals Bill - Ministerial Advisory Group - Update on Progress	Released in Part	9(2)(a)
86	5/4/24	Email: RE: Email addresses for Panel members	Released in Part	9(2)(a)
87	5/4/24	Email: RE: Fast Track Consenting Approvals Bill - Ministerial Advisory Group Conflicts of Interest	Release in Full	NA
88	5/4/24	Email: RE: Email addresses for Panel members	Released in Part	9(2)(a)
89	5/4/24	Email: RE: Email addresses for Panel members	Released in Part	9(2)(a)

90	7/4/24	Email: Re: Fast-track Approvals Bill - Ministerial Advisory Group - Update on Progress	Released in Part	9(2)(a)
91	8/4/24	Email: Letter of appointment from Hon Chris Bishop	Released in Part	9(2)(a)
92	8/4/24	Email: Letter of appointment from Hon Chris Bishop	Released in Part	18(d)
93	8/4/24	Email: RE: Signed Acceptance of Appointment	Released in Part	9(2)(a)
94	8/4/24	Email: Signed Acceptance of Appointment	Released in Part	18(d)
95	8/4/24	Email: Signed Acceptance of Appointment	Released in Part	18(d)
96	8/4/24	Email: Letter of appointment from Hon Chris Bishop	Released in Part	9(2)(a) 18(d)
97	9/4/24	Email: RE: Letters of appointment and first meeting	Released in Part	9(2)(a)
98	9/4/24	Email: Fast-track Approvals Bill - Ministerial Advisory Group - Ministerial announcement re. Advisory Group	Released in Part	9(2)(a)
99	9/4/24	Email: Murray Parrish FPA	Released in Part	9(2)(a)

		Group Acceptance		18(d)
100	9/4/24	Email: RE: Acceptance letter	Release in Full	NA
101	9/4/24	Email: Re: Fast-track Approvals Bill - Ministerial Advisory Group - Ministerial announcement re. Advisory Group	Released in Part	9(2)(a)
102	9/4/24	Email: RE: Letters of appointment and first meeting	Released in Part	9(2)(a)
103	9/4/24	Email: Governance, Monitoring, and Appointments	Released in Part	9(2)(a)
104	9/4/24	Email: Re: Letter of appointment from Hon Chris Bishop	Released in Part	9(2)(a)
105	9/4/24	Email: RE: Signed Appointment Letter - Fast-track Projects	Released in Part	9(2)(a)
106	9/4/24	Email: Signed Appointment Letter - Fast-track Projects	Released in Part	9(2)(a)
107	9/4/24	Email: Re: Fast-track Approvals Bill - Ministerial Advisory Group - Ministerial announcement re. Advisory Group	Released in Part	9(2)(a)

108	9/4/24	Email: Signed Appointment Letter - Fast-track Projects	Released in Part	9(2)(a)
109	9/4/24	Email: Re: Fast-track Approvals Bill - Ministerial Advisory Group - Ministerial announcement re. Advisory Group	Released in Part	9(2)(a)
110	12/4/24	Email: FW: Fast-track Approvals Bill - Ministerial Advisory Group - Ministerial announcement re. Advisory Group	Released in Part	9(2)(a)
111		Diary notes	Released in Full	