



6 August 2024

OIAD-1122

9(2)(a)

Tēnā koe 9(2)(a)

Thank you for your email of 10 June 2024 to the Ministry for the Environment (the Ministry) requesting information about funding allocation for the Pukekohe Action Plan under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act). You have specifically requested the following:

- 1. Please regard this letter as an official complaint and request under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA) for all communication that led to the above decisions, who made those decisions within the MfE leadership group (or MPI if included) and a copy of the briefing paper to the respective Minister/s regarding those decisions.*
- 2. Under section 23, OIA, we also request the reasoning for making those decisions and recommendations to the Minister specifically in regard to the change of budget from \$10 million initially approved and ring fenced under the previous Government down to \$6.4 million, unilaterally adding an additional highly prejudicial criterion (as relayed above), and unilaterally determining the final list of priority projects without consulting the collective.*

On 20 June 2024, the Ministry requested clarification on Part 1 of your request in order for us to respond. You confirmed that you were seeking:

- communication relating solely to the Pukekohe Action Plan; and
- communications between the Ministry and the office of Associate Environment Minister, Hon Andrew Hoggard, as well as internal Ministry communications.

The Ministry has identified one document in scope of Part 1 of your request, as listed in the attached document schedule. I am releasing this document to you in full.

On 20 June 2024, the Ministry responded to Part 2 of your request. In our response, the Ministry advised that our advice to Minister Hoggard on the Pukekohe Action Plan's funding allocation would soon be publicly available. I am now releasing this advice to you with some information redacted due to it being out of scope of your request. Some information in the document has also been withheld under section 9(2)(b)(ii) of the Act as the release of this information would be likely unreasonably to prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied or who is the subject of the information.

Please note that, while I am unable to publicly release some advice due to commercial considerations, you have access to the data informing this advice through previous communication with the Ministry regarding the Pukekohe Action Plan.

In terms of section 9(1) of the Act, 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 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.

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.

Nāku noa, nā,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Lorena Stephen'.

Lorena Stephen

General Manager – Communications and Engagement
Ministry for the Environment | Manatū Mō Te Taiao

Document schedule

Document no.	Document date	Content	Decisions	OIA sections applied
1	18 January 2024	Email: Pukekohe Potential Savings	Released in full	N/A
2	31 May 2024	Appendix 3 of BRF-4810 - Jobs for Nature progress update and decision sought	Released in part	9(2)(b)(ii)