



26 August 2024

9(2)(a)

Dear 9(2)(a)

Thank you for your email of 29 August 2024 requesting the following under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

Please provide, in relation to applications for proposed projects to be included in Schedule 2 of the Fast-Track Approvals Bill, all documentation provided by applicants to MfE about the economic benefits of those projects.

Please treat this as a standing request ie as if it is a new request each time you receive further documentation within scope of the request.

The Ministry for the Environment (the Ministry) is refusing your request under section 9(2)(f)(iv) of the Act, to maintain the constitutional conventions for the time being which protect the confidentiality of advice tendered by Ministers of the Crown and officials.

The application documentation will be proactively released once final decisions have been finalised.

You have also requested that this be treated as a standing request. Section 12 of the Act requires a request to be made by an eligible person for official information that is specified with due particularity. Requests can only be for official information that is held by an agency at the time of a request being made, and there is no obligation for agencies to create information, or to continually assess official information that it creates, to release it to a requestor.

If you require further information after this response, you are welcome to submit a new request under the Act.

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 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