



23 October 2024

OIAD-1263

9(2)(a)

Dear 9(2)(a)

Thank you for your email of 18 September 2024 requesting the following under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

- *All advice, documents, briefings or any other written document, provided to the Minister for the Environment and any member of their office, regarding the range of risks associated with reduced funding for the Ministry for the Environment, and all documents relating to the monitoring of these risks*
- *All advice, documents, briefings or any other written document provided to the Minister for the Environment and any member of their office concerning core science and data requirements for the Ministry as a result of reduced funding and capacity, and all documents relating to identifying core science and data requirements to achieve performance measures*

The Ministry for the Environment (the Ministry) has identified 21 documents in scope of your request which were previously released in response to a separate request under the Act. You can access these documents, here: <https://environment.govt.nz/oia-releases/request-for-budget-bid-2024-programme-cuts/>

The Ministry has identified a further nine documents in scope of your request.

Four documents are being released to you in full.

One document is being withheld in full 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.

Two documents are being released to you as excerpts, as provided for under section 16(1)(e) of the Act.

Two documents are being released to you in part, with some information within these documents withheld under the following sections of the Act:

- 9(2)(a) to protect the privacy of natural persons.
- 9(2)(f)(iv) to maintain the constitutional conventions for the time being which protect the confidentiality of advice tendered by Ministers of the Crown and officials.

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



Arun Patel

General Manager – Finance and Procurement
Ministry for the Environment | Manatū Mō Te Taiao

Document schedule

No.	Date	Content	Decision	OIA Section/s applied
1.	28/3/2024	BRF-4553 Additional CERF savings, implications, and next steps	Released in part	9(2)(a); 9(2)(f)(iv)
2.	21/06/2024	BRF-4955 2024/25 Work Programme prioritisation - initial advice	Released in full	N/A
3.	19/9/2024	Minister Simmonds Portfolio Report - September 2024	Released in full	N/A
4.		Fact Sheet – Environmental and Climate Reporting Programme	Released in full	N/A
5.		Fact Sheet – Hot topics at the Science Policy Interface	Released in part	9(2)(f)(iv)
6.		Fact Sheet – Science Reforms	Released in full	N/A
7.	4/4/2024	BRF-4422 Intro to MfE's role in SIT system	Released in part	16(1)(e)
8.	17/5/2024	BRF-4636 Data, evidence and analytics in the RM and Climate systems	Released in part	16(1)(e)
9.	5/9/2024	BRF-4969 Prioritising actions to improve environmental data	Withheld in full	9(2)(f)(iv)