



12 December 2024

OIAD-1290

9(2)(a)

Tēnā koe 9(2)(a)

Thank you for your email of 2 October 2024 to the Ministry for the Environment (the Ministry) requesting the following under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

-This is a OIA for all weekly updates, both the week of 16 september update (created 12 sept) and any other updates sent in september.

-This OIA includes all communication (incl texts), briefings, aide memoirs or other info internally and between the ministers office relating to any weekly updates in september. This OIA excludes purely administrative information.

In response to the first part of this request, the Ministry identified 19 documents in scope of part one of this request, as listed in the attached document table. I am releasing two documents to you in full.

I am releasing 15 documents in part with some information withheld under the following sections of the Act:

- 6(b)(i) to prejudice the entrusting of information to the Government of New Zealand on a basis of confidence by the Government of any other country or any agency of such a Government.
- 9(2)(a) to protect the privacy of natural persons.
- 9(2)(ba)(i) to protect information which is subject to an obligation of confidence or which any person has been or could be compelled to provide under the authority of any enactment, where the making available of the information would be likely to prejudice the supply of similar information, or information from the same source, and it is in the public interest that such information should continue to be supplied.
- 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.

I am refusing two documents in full under section 18(d) of the Act as the information is already publicly available. Links have been provided to you in the attached Document Schedule.

On 23 October 2024, you confirmed the following scope for the second part of your request:

Communication (emails, briefings, aide memoirs etc) about the Weekly Update documents themselves (including for example any consideration of which items should be included in the weekly updates, how they should be framed, expectations for how they might be received, which items don't need to be included, how they are framed etc)

A search of our archive system for any emails containing the term 'weekly updates' between the end of August to the start of October 2024 yielded over 5,000 results. The time and effort required to collate, identify, assess and release emails that may be in scope of your request is substantial and cannot be undertaken in a reasonable timeframe.

Additionally, the draft weekly update reports are live documents. Multiple business groups across the Ministry contribute, edit, and discuss items within the same document. This dynamic nature further complicates pinpointing specific information retrospectively, and often means that changes are made directly in the documents, rather than communicated through email. Given these constraints, it is not possible to identify and release the requested information. Therefore, I am refusing this part of the request under section 18(f) as the information requested cannot be made available without substantial collation or research.

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.

Nāku noa, nā,



Danielle Ryan,
Manager – Ministerial Services
Ministry for the Environment | Manatū Mō Te Taiao

Document Schedule

No.	Date	Content	Decision	OIA Section/s applied (if withholding information)
1	29 August 2024	Final Climate Weekly Update for the week of 2 September 2024	Released in part	9(2)(a) 9(2)(ba)(i)
2	June 2024	Coastal Wetland Blue Carbon Policy Research in Aotearoa_Final V2 27August24	Released in full	N/A
3	5 September 2024	Final Climate Weekly Update for the week of 9 September 2024	Released in part	9(2)(f)(iv)
4	12 September 2024	Final Climate Weekly Update for the week of 16 September 2024	Released in part	6(b)(i) 9(2)(f)(iv)
5	19 September 2024	Final Climate Weekly Update for the week of 23 September 2024	Released in part	9(2)(a) 9(2)(f)(iv)
6	26 September 2024	Final Climate Weekly Update for the week of 30 September 2024	Released in part	9(2)(f)(iv)
7	2 September 2024	Final Environment Weekly Update week of 2 September 2024	Released in part	9(2)(f)(iv)

8	9 September 2024	Final Environment Weekly Update week of 9 September 2024	Released in part	9(2)(f)(iv)
9	16 September 2024	Final Environment Weekly Update week of 16 September 2024	Released in part	9(2)(f)(iv)
10	23 September 2024	Final Environment Weekly Update week of 23 September 2024	Released in part	9(2)(f)(iv)
11	30 September 2024	Final Environment Weekly Update week of 30 September 2024	Released in part	9(2)(f)(iv)
12	August 2024	National Landfill Climate Change Exposure Assessment Aug 2024	Released in full	N/A
13	17 September 2024	Te Ao Māori Evaluation - Jobs for Nature	Refused in full	18(d)
14	17 September 2024	Jobs for Nature Evaluation Year two report	Refused in full	18(d)
15	2 September 2024	Final Resource Management Reform Weekly Update week of 2 September 2024	Released in part	9(2)(f)(iv)
16	9 September 2024	Final Resource Management Reform Weekly	Released in part	9(2)(f)(iv)

		Update week of 9 September 2024		
17	16 September 2024	Final Resource Management Reform Weekly Update week of 16 September 2024	Released in part	9(2)(f)(iv)
18	23 September 2024	Final Resource Management Reform Weekly Update week of 23 September 2024	Released in part	9(2)(f)(iv)
19	30 September 2024	Final Resource Management Reform Weekly Update week of 30 September 2024	Released in part	9(2)(f)(iv)