



6 December 2024

OIAD-1388

9(2)(a)

Dear 9(2)(a)

Thank you for your email of 8 November 2024 requesting the following under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

Thank you very much for the friendly chat over the phone just now. I am contacting you because I am interested in the work you have done around the definitions used in the NPS (see relevant documents which are attached).

I read:

- the drafting of definitions and the approach proposed has had initial feedback from the drafting practitioners group, pilot councils, and some industry groups Is the initial feedback you received available to be read through? If so, I would highly appreciate the opportunity to read through it, please.*

I also noticed that you started with the following research back in 2015:

- Boffa Miskell. 2015. RMA District Plan Definitions. Prepared for the Ministry for the Environment by Boffa Miskell. Wellington: Ministry for the Environment; Boffa Miskell. 2015. RMA Regional Plan Definitions. Prepared for the Ministry for the Environment. Wellington: Ministry for the Environment*

Equally, is it possible to have access to the submissions that were received and considered for preparing this research?

And finally, the submissions which were received and are mentioned in part on the 21 Definitions standard paper - I would really like to read them and wonder whether or not they were available, please.

The Ministry is withholding information in-scope of your request for feedback regarding “...the drafting of definitions and the approach proposed has had initial feedback from the drafting practitioners group, pilot councils, and some industry groups...” under section 9(2)(ba)(i) of the Act, as it 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.

The Ministry is refusing the second point of your request for submissions received and considered in preparation of the 2015 report titled *RMA District Plan Definitions*, which was prepared for the Ministry for the Environment by Boffa Miskell, under section 18(g)(i) of the Act, as the information requested is not held by the Ministry and we have no grounds for believing that the information is held by another department, Minister of the Crown, organisation, or local authority.

The Ministry has collated the submissions in scope of your request for “... *the submissions which were received and are mentioned in part on the 21 Definitions standard paper.*” These are being released to you in part, with some information withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the Act, to protect the privacy of natural persons.

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



Jo Gascoigne
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Ministry for the Environment | Manatū Mō Te Taiao