



12 December 2024

9(2)(a)

Dear 9(2)(a)

Thank you for your email of 20 November 2024 to the Ministry for the Environment requesting the following under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

*I would like to request, under the Official Information Act, any correspondence (including electronic messages, texts, phone calls) between the Ministry of the Environment and the Environmental Defence Fund in the month of October 2024.*

*I would also like to request, in full word-searchable format, under the Official Information Act, any minutes, documentation, briefings or content (electronic or not) received or sent by MFE to the Environmental Defence Fund this year.*

The Ministry has identified one email in scope of your request, as listed in the attached document schedule. This email has been released to you in part with some information 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.
- 9(2)(g)(i) to maintain the effective conduct of public affairs through the free and frank expression of opinions by or between or to Ministers of the Crown or members of an organisation or officers and employees of any public service agency or organisation in the course of their duty.

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](http://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](mailto:ministerials@mfe.govt.nz).

Yours sincerely,



**Jacqueline Ruesga**  
Manager – International  
Ministry for the Environment | Manatū Mō Te Taiao

### Document schedule

Document no.	Document date	Content	Decisions	OIA sections applied
1	7 November 2024	Fw__EXTERNAL_ Re_ 'Avoidance'.msg.pdf	Release in part	9(2)(a) 9(2)(f)(iv) 9(2)(g)(i)