



11 February 2025

OIAD-1450

9(2)(a)

Kia ora 9(2)(a)

Thank you for your email of 21 December 2024 to the Ministry for the Environment (the Ministry) making the following request under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

We would like a copy of the informal analysis material [on the public submissions on the 2023 consultation “Improving our GMO regulations for laboratory and biomedical research”] from /between MfE and MBIE.

From 3 July to 25 August 2023, under the previous government, the Ministry ran a public consultation titled “Improving our GMO regulations for laboratory and biomedical research”. The current government has agreed to move forward with genetic technology reform, led by the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE). The work from the 2023 consultation has been incorporated into MBIE’s work where relevant, with an informal analysis of submissions provided to MBIE to support its policy work. This analysis was designed to give a general understanding of the level of support of each of the proposed policies and specific excerpts from some submissions that might help inform specific policy.

Please note that this analysis is informal and incomplete. It has not gone through any sign out process as a finished piece of work, nor has it been peer reviewed for accuracy or quality. It also does not reflect the views of the Ministry.

I have identified three documents in scope of your request, as outlined in the document schedule below. I am releasing one of these to you in full. I am releasing the remaining two to you in part, with some information withheld or refused under the following sections of the Act:

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, 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.

“Submission analysis doc” is the name of an Excel document held by the Ministry. It is comprised of three sheets. I have provided Sheets 1 and 3 to you as separate Adobe PDF documents. Sheet 2 is a line-by-line list of all 81 submissions on the public consultation, 62 of which are already publicly available, and it does not contain analysis of submissions. As such, Sheet 2 is not in scope of your request and I have not provided you with a copy.

Please note that Te Whare Wānanga o Waikato, The University of Waikato, one of the submitters on the public consultation, is incorrectly recorded in “Submission analysis doc –

Sheet 1” as “Te Wānanga o Aotearoa, The University of Waikato”. Te Wānanga o Aotearoa is the name of a different tertiary education institution and did not make a submission on this consultation.

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 decisions relating to this request, in accordance with section 28(3) of the Act. The relevant details can be found 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

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Glenn Wigley". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Glenn Wigley, General Manager – Waste & HSNO Policy
Ministry for the Environment | Manatū Mō Te Taiao

Document Schedule

Title	Decision	Grounds
Sub analysis general groups views	Released in full	
Submission analysis document	Released in part	9(2)(ba)(i)
Submission analysis doc	Released in part	9(2)(a) 9(2)(ba)(i)