



11 April 2025

OIAD-1477

9(2)(a)

Tēnā koe 9(2)(a)

Thank you for your email of 10 February 2025 making the following request of the Ministry for the Environment (the Ministry) under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

Can I please request the following information under the Official Information Act. Re Independent methane review panel

1. *Communication between MFE staff and*
 - *the methane panel members individually or collectively*
 - *members and staff of the Climate Change Commission*
 - *ministers' offices*
 - *others outside MFE*
2. *Internal communications among MFE staff*
3. *Reports, scientific or other papers, information and advice submitted to the Panel by or through MFE.*
4. *Information regarding the elaboration of the press statement issued on the release of the Panel's report, in particular regarding the rationale for the omission of one of the three summary points drawn up by the Panel*

Note this request concerns only matters relating to the substance of the Panel's work, not administrative matters.

On 31 March 2025, we notified you that the Ministry had transferred Point 4 to the Office of the Minister of Climate Change under section 14 of the Act, as we believed that the information to which Point 4 relates to is more closely connected with its functions.

I have identified 25 email conversations, including their attachments, in scope of Point 1, as outlined in the document schedule. I am releasing these 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.
- 9(2)(h) to maintain legal professional privilege.
- 18(d) as the information is already publicly available.

Please note that the Ministry does not hold any correspondence with the Climate Change Commission in scope of this request.

I have identified six Microsoft Teams conversations in scope of Point 2, as outlined in the document schedule. I am releasing four to you in full and two in part, with some information withheld under the following sections of the Act:

- 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.

I have also redacted some information in one of the conversations as out of scope of your request.

I have identified 24 public submissions, three peer review documents, one internal working document, and nine further documents in scope of Point 3, as outlined in the document schedule below.

I am releasing the 24 submissions to you in part, with some information withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the Act to protect the privacy of natural persons.

I am releasing the one internal working and three peer review documents to you in full.

I am refusing the nine further documents in full under section 18(d) of the Act as they are already publicly available. I have provided a link to each of these in the document schedule.

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 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



Cheryl Moir
Manager – Land Use and Removals
Ministry for the Environment | Manatū Mō Te Taiao

Document schedule

| # | Date | Type | Title/Subject | Decision | Grounds | Link/Notes |
|---|----------|-------|--|------------------|---|---|
| Point 1: External communications | | | | | | |
| 1 | 31-07-24 | Email | Blog - let me know if you can't access | Released in part | 9(2)(a) | |
| 2 | 23-08-24 | Email | Check in on Panel actions | Released in part | 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(i) | |
| 3 | 28-08-24 | Email | Methane data | Released in part | 9(2)(a) | |
| 4 | 14-10-24 | Email | Aide Memoire: Methane science and target review – Process update | Released in part | 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(i) | Includes a copy of BRF-5458. |
| 5 | 15-10-24 | Email | Draft Introduction section for Methane report | Released in part | 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(i) | |
| 6 | 15-10-24 | Email | Re-sending in case firsts copy didn't go | Released in part | 9(2)(a) | |
| 7 | 08-11-24 | Email | Draft Methane Science and Targets report | Released in part | 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(i) | |
| 8 | 12-11-24 | Email | BRF 5493 – Process Update: Methane Science and Target Review | Released in part | 9(2)(a), 9(2)(f)(iv), 9(2)(g)(i), 9(2)(h) | Includes a copy of BRF-5493. |
| 9 | 18-11-24 | Email | **BAG** - Draft Cabinet paper – Methane Science and Target Review: Release of the final report | Released in part | 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(i) | Includes a copy of BRF-5495. |
| 10 | 19-11-24 | Email | Draft email feedback for the Panel | Released in part | 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(i) | |
| 11 | 22-11-24 | Email | Economic Analysis for Zero carbon bill | Released in part | 9(2)(a) | |
| 12 | 25-11-24 | Email | Checking in on data sets and modelling results | Released in part | 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(i) | |
| 13 | 26-11-24 | Email | Sign out progress | Released in part | 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(i) | The final press release is available at: https://www.beehive.govt.nz/release/government-releases-independent-scientific-review-biogenic-methane-science-and-targets |
| 14 | 27-11-24 | Email | Final report in folder now | Released in part | 9(2)(a) | |
| 15 | 28-11-24 | Email | Methane Review Report | Released in part | 9(2)(a) | |
| 16 | 29-11-24 | Email | Initial 20 pages | Released in part | 9(2)(a) | |
| 17 | 29-11-24 | Email | Methane Review - target base year | Released in part | 9(2)(a) | |
| 18 | 02-12-24 | Email | FOR ACTION TODAY: Talking Points for Officials meeting on Methane science and target review | Released in part | 9(2)(a), 9(2)(f)(iv), 18(d) | Includes a copy of BRF-5634. Final report is available at: https://environment.govt.nz/publications/methane-science-and-target-review/ |
| 19 | 02-12-24 | Email | Final methane science and targets review | Released in part | 9(2)(a) | |
| 20 | 02-12-24 | Email | 1news: methane-target-tweak-requires-steeper-action-elsewhere-commission | Released in part | 9(2)(a) | |
| 21 | 03-12-24 | Email | Delivery of methane science and target panel review | Released in part | 9(2)(a) | |
| 22 | 03-12-24 | Email | Final changes | Released in part | 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(i) | |

| # | Date | Type | Title/Subject | Decision | Grounds | Link/Notes |
|--|--------------|------------------------------|--|------------------|-------------------------|---|
| 23 | 03-12-24 | Email | Methane Science and Target Review report | Released in part | 9(2)(a), 9(2)(f)(iv) | |
| 24 | 05-12-24 | Email | Methane review report | Released in part | 9(2)(a) | |
| 25 | 09-01-25 | Email | Letter from the MoA and MCC to the Chair of the Methane Review Panel - 18th Dec 2024 | Released in part | 9(2)(a), 9(2)(f)(iv) | |
| Point 2: Internal communications | | | | | | |
| 26 | 27-11-24 | Microsoft Teams conversation | Microsoft Teams conversation - 27-11-2024 2.19 AM | Released in full | | |
| 27 | 04-12-24 | Microsoft Teams conversation | Microsoft Teams conversation - 4-12-2024 3.04 AM | Released in full | | |
| 28 | 04-12-24 | Microsoft Teams conversation | Microsoft Teams conversation - 4-12-2024 7.22 PM | Released in full | | |
| 29 | 05-12-24 | Microsoft Teams conversation | Microsoft Teams conversation - 5-12-2024 10.47 PM | Released in full | | |
| 30 | 05-12-24 | Microsoft Teams conversation | Microsoft Teams conversation - 5-12-2024 8.57 PM | Released in part | 9(2)(f)(iv), 9(2)(g)(i) | |
| 31 | 06-12-24 | Microsoft Teams conversation | Microsoft Teams conversation - 6-12-2024 2.22 AM | Released in part | | Some information has been redacted as out of scope. |
| Point 3: Information submitted to the panel | | | | | | |
| 32-55 | Various | Submissions | 24 public submissions on the Methane Science and Target Review | Released in part | 9(2)(a) | |
| 56 | August 2018 | Publication | The contribution of methane emissions from New Zealand livestock to global warming | Refused in full | 18(d) | https://pce.parliament.nz/media/ojzbobxh/contribution-of-methane-emissions-from-nz-livestock-to-global-warming.pdf |
| 57 | June 2019 | Publication | Scientific aspects of New Zealand's 2050 emission targets | Refused in full | 18(d) | https://www.nzagrc.org.nz/assets/Publications/NZAGRC-Report-Scientific-aspects-of-2050-methane-targets.pdf |
| 58 | 31-05-21 | Publication | Ināia tonu nei: a low emissions future for Aotearoa | Refused in full | 18(d) | https://www.climatecommission.govt.nz/public/Inaia-tonu-nei-a-low-emissions-future-for-Aotearoa/Inaia-tonu-nei-a-low-emissions-future-for-Aotearoa.pdf |
| 59 | October 2022 | Publication | How much forestry would be needed to offset warming from agricultural methane? | Refused in full | 18(d) | https://pce.parliament.nz/media/03bpa3sn/how-much-forestry-would-be-needed-to-offset-warming-from-agricultural-methane.pdf |
| 60 | 14-09-23 | Submission | Submission to the Climate Change Commission on the Review of the 2050 Target | Refused in full | 18(d) | https://www.dairynz.co.nz/media/qu1lwtgu/joint-evidence-submission-for-target-review-final-14-sept-2023.pdf |
| 61 | 11-10-23 | Letter | Letter to DairyNZ, Beef + Lamb NZ, and Federated Farmers | Refused in full | 18(d) | https://pce.parliament.nz/media/pywiuzzs/letter-to-dairynz-beefpluslamb-nz-and-federated-farmers-oct-2023.pdf |

| # | Date | Type | Title/Subject | Decision | Grounds | Link/Notes |
|----|----------|---------------------------|---|------------------|---------|---|
| 62 | 20-10-23 | Letter | Letter to the Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment | Refused in full | 18(d) | https://www.dairynz.co.nz/media/dz1nuon5/201023-joint-letter-to-pce.pdf |
| 63 | 24-11-23 | Agreement | Coalition Agreement: New Zealand National Party & ACT New Zealand | Refused in full | 18(d) | https://assets.nationbuilder.com/actnz/pages/13849/attachments/original/1715133581/National_ACT_Agreement.pdf?1715133581 |
| 64 | 08-04-24 | Discussion document | Review of the 2050 emissions reduction target | Refused in full | 18(d) | https://www.climatecommission.govt.nz/public/Uploads/Targets/supporting-docs/20240404-Target-Consultation.pdf |
| 65 | 12-11-24 | Peer review | Peer review of Methane Science and Target Review (Chris Smith) | Released in full | | |
| 66 | 18-11-24 | Peer review | Summary review of draft report and code (Chris Smith) | Released in full | | |
| 67 | 19-11-24 | Internal working document | Feedback on draft Methane Science and Target Review report (MfE) | Released in full | | We also consider this document to be in scope of Point 1. |
| 68 | 29-11-24 | Peer review | Peer review of Methane Science and Target Review (Myles Allen) | Released in full | | |