



6 March 2025

OIAD-1479

9(2)(a)

Dear 9(2)(a)

Thank you for your email of 9 February 2025 to the Ministry for the Environment (the Ministry) requesting the following under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

- 1. Any records or documents relating to the spraying of substances from aircraft, including but not limited to: - Chemical composition of any substances sprayed. - Purpose of spraying - Frequency and location of spraying - Aircraft types involved*
- 2. Any information on the potential environmental and health impacts of aircraft emissions and atmospheric spraying.*
- 3. Any policies, guidelines or regulations governing aircraft emissions and atmospheric spraying in New Zealand.*

The Ministry does not hold the requested information relating to the spraying of substances from aircrafts, including chemical composition, purpose, frequency, location, aircraft types involved and the potential environmental and health impacts of atmospheric spraying. Therefore, I am refusing your request under section 18(e) of the Act as the information requested does not exist.

If you are interested in information relating to approved hazardous substances and agrichemicals that can be sprayed from aircraft, these are regulated by the Environmental Protection Authority and the Ministry for Primary Industries respectively. Either of these agencies may apply controls over specific products or active ingredients, and you may wish to contact these agencies, if that is the information you seek.

The Civil Aviation Authority, the Ministry of Transport, and Waka Kotahi New Zealand Transport Agency are responsible for transport emissions and aircraft regulations in New Zealand. These agencies are better suited to provide detailed information on aircraft emissions. Depending on the specific information you are seeking, we recommend submitting a request under the Act to the relevant agency.

You may be interested to know that the Ministry and Stats NZ publish a report every three years about the air quality in New Zealand. Although not specifically related to the health impacts of aircraft emissions, the report shows how human activities and natural phenomena are affecting air quality and impacting people and nature. The latest update of this report was published in October 2024 and is available on the Ministry's website, here: environment.govt.nz/publications/our-air-2024/#impacts-on-people-and-nature

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Office of the Ombudsman of my decision 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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'G. Wigley'.

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