



7 April 2025

OIAD-1507

9(2)(a)

Tēnā koe 9(2)(a)

Thank you for your email of 3 March 2025 requesting the following under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

- *The work MfE is doing to consider the findings of the Methane science and target review, including any internal correspondence, documentation, meeting agendas etc—since the release of the report last year.*
- *Any correspondence between the agency and the Minister or their office, since the release of the report last year on the Methane science and target review.*

Thank you also for your email of 20 March 2025 where you clarified that you were interested in the following types of information:

- *Substantive information on the findings of the review and substantive preparation for a government response.*
- *Administrative minutia between the Ministry and the Minister's office.*
- *Discussion between the Ministry and the Minister's office on public correspondence on the review, including other requests under the Act on this topic.*

I am withholding all substantive information on the findings of the review and substantive preparation for a government response under section 9(2)(f)(iv) of the Act to maintain the constitutional conventions for the time being which protect the confidentiality of advice tendered by Ministers of the Crown and officials. This includes two Ministerial briefings, which I have listed in the document schedule below.

Ministers are still considering the findings of the review. As such, releasing early or draft advice on this issue would prejudice the ability of Ministers to make decisions on it free from undue influence.

I have identified five emails and three attachments to these emails in scope of the remainder of your request, as outlined in the document schedule below. I am releasing these to you in part, with some information withheld under the following sections of the Act:

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| 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. |
| 18(d) | as the information is already publicly available. |

I have redacted some information in one email as out of scope of your request.

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 blue ink, appearing to read 'Stephen Goodman', is positioned above a faint yellow rectangular stamp.

Stephen Goodman

Manager – Net Zero/Climate Systems

Ministry for the Environment | Manatū Mō Te Taiao

Email schedule

#	Date	Type	Code	Briefing Title/Email Subject	Decision	Grounds	Link/Notes
1	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)	
2	17-01-25	Email		No Additional Warming Methane Report	Released in part	9(2)(a), 18(d)	This email includes two attachments. The report can be found here: https://www.lawyersforclimateaction.nz/news-events/methane-matters-and-so-do-metrics
3	26-02-25	Briefing	BRF-5775	Responding to the Climate Change Commissions advice on the 2050 target and emissions budgets	Withheld in full	9(2)(f)(iv)	
4	03-03-25	Email		Draft Watts agenda for Monday 3 March	Released in part	Some information has been redacted as out of scope.	This email includes one attachment.
5	03-03-25	Email		MfE BRF-5775 MPI B25-0076 Responding to the Climate Change Commissions advice on the 2050 target and emissions budgets	Released in part	9(2)(a), 9(2)(f)(iv)	
6	14-03-25	Email		BRF - 5923 2050 target options and initial analysis	Released in part	9(2)(a)	
7	14-03-25	Briefing	BRF-5923	2050 target options and initial analysis	Withheld in full	9(2)(f)(iv)	