



8 July 2025

OIAD-1650

9(2)(a)

Tēnā koe 9(2)(a)

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

written confirmation clarifying the precise definition of particular words and terms that are written by the Crown Person into ITS Corporate Contractual Governance Publications' of primary Legislative Instruments, specifically those that are administered by the Crown Persons's Ministry for the Environment of "NEW ZEALAND".

Government departments and agencies are responsible for specific policy areas and the legislation related to them. When developing legislation, this includes determining the scope of the legislation, including who it will apply to, and providing advice to Ministers.

The Ministry is not responsible for creating, and does not maintain, specific working definitions of the terms you have requested, such as "human being", "plants", or "public" beyond what is already established in relevant legislation. We do not consider it necessary to adopt more formal or operational definitions.

I am therefore refusing your request under section 18(e) of the Act as the document alleged to contain the information requested does not exist.

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 shortly after the response has been sent on our website at: <https://environment.govt.nz/about-us/official-information-act-requests/>. If you have any queries about this, please feel free to contact our Ministerial Services team at: ministerials@mfe.govt.nz.

Nāku noa, nā

Martin Workman

Chief of Staff

Ministry for the Environment | Manatū Mō Te Taiao