



4 August 2025

OIAD-1611

[REDACTED]
Senior Economic Advisor
Labour Party
[REDACTED]

Tēnā koe [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email of 26 May 2025 requesting the following under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) of the Ministry for the Environment (the Ministry):

Under the OIA, can I please have copies of all aide memoirs, briefings, memos, notes, reports, or any other advice, sent to the Minister or their offices regarding funding decisions for your department/ministry and votes you are responsible for, in the context of Budget 2025. This includes all Budget 2025 bids for funding, impacts of funding decisions in Budget 25, and impacts of not receiving funding in Budget 2025. This can be limited to 1 November 2024 to today.

Under the OIA, I also request copies of all aide memoirs, briefings, memos, notes, reports, or any other advice, sent to your executive leadership team regarding funding decisions for departments and votes you are responsible for, in the context of Budget 2025. This includes all Budget 2025 bids for funding, impacts of funding decisions in Budget 25, and impacts of not receiving funding in Budget 2025. This can be limited to 1 November 2024 to today.

If and where a document that falls under scope of this request cannot be released, please supply a summary of that document's contents.

If and where any document falls under the scope of this request, please release it in full, including sections which might otherwise be considered out of scope

I have identified 61 documents in scope of your request, as listed in the document schedule below.

I am releasing 11 to you in full.

I am releasing 39 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)(b)(ii) to protect information where the making available of the information would likely unreasonably to prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied or who is the subject of the information.
- 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.

I am withholding five documents in full under section 9(2)(f)(iv) of the Act as they are comprised of information about Budget 2026 that remains under active consideration.

I am refusing six in full under section 18(d) of the Act as they are already publicly available on the Ministry's website or will be proactively released by Treasury by 7 August 2025. Please refer to the document schedule for links to publicly available information. Some information in Treasury's proactive release may be withheld under section 9 of the Act.

In terms of section 9(1) of the Act, I am satisfied that, in the circumstances, the withholding of information in this request 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 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



Arun Patel

General Manager – Finance & Procurement
Ministry for the Environment | Manatū Mō Te Taiao

Document schedule

#	Date	Code	Title	Decision	Grounds	Link/Notes
Documents provided to Ministers						
1	06-12-24	BRF-5672	Budget 25 initial advice (v1)	Released in part	9(2)(a), 9(2)(f)(iv), 9(2)(g)(i), 9(2)(h), 18(d)	Appendices 1 & 2 will be proactively released on the Treasury's website by 7 August 2025.
2	06-12-24	BRF-5672	Budget 25 initial advice (v2)	Released in part	9(2)(a), 9(2)(f)(iv), 9(2)(g)(i), 9(2)(h)	
3	13-12-24	BRF-5717	Final decisions on the Budget 25 package	Released in part	9(2)(a), 9(2)(f)(iv), 9(2)(g)(i), 9(2)(h)	
4	16-12-24		Budget 25 Joint Minister Meeting Pack (17-12-24)	Released in part	9(2)(f)(iv)	
5	18-12-24	BRF-5719	Vote Environment Budget 25 letter to Minister of Finance (v1)	Released in part	9(2)(a), 9(2)(f)(iv)	
6	18-12-24	BRF-5719	Vote Environment Budget 25 letter to Minister of Finance (v2)	Released in part	9(2)(a)	
7	18-12-24	BRF-5719	Vote Environment Budget 25 letter to Minister of Finance (v3)	Released in part	9(2)(a)	
8	24-01-25	BRF-5779	Climate Change Portfolio Fiscal Strategy	Released in part	9(2)(f)(iv), 18(d)	Appendix 1 will be proactively released on the Treasury's website by 7 August 2025.
9	03-02-25	BRF-5797	Options for NZGIF funds	Released in part	9(2)(a), 9(2)(b)(ii), 9(2)(f)(iv)	
10	11-02-25		MfE B25 Growth Package - Non-spending initiatives	Release in part	9(2)(f)(iv)	
11	13-02-25	BRF-5860	Emissions trading scheme exemption for Waitaki District Council	Released in part	9(2)(a)	
12	14-02-25	BRF-5870	Budget 25 - climate portfolio	Released in part	9(2)(a), 9(2)(f)(iv)	
13	20-02-25	BRF-5893	Baseline Savings Exercise - draft response	Released in full		
14	25-02-25	BRF-5910	Establishing an Environmental Investment Fund (v1)	Released in part	9(2)(a), 9(2)(h)	
15	26-02-25	BRF-5910	Establishing an Environmental Investment Fund (v2)	Released in part	9(2)(a), 9(2)(h)	
16	12-03-25		3pm today - Notes for Ministers office	Released in part	9(2)(f)(iv)	
17	12-03-25		High level talking points 0312	Released in part	9(2)(f)(iv)	
18	13-03-25	BRF-5971	Resource management implementation funding	Released in part	9(2)(a), 9(2)(f)(iv)	
19	19-03-25	BRF-5950	Vote Environment Performance Plan	Released in part	9(2)(a), 9(2)(f)(iv), 9(2)(g)(i)	
20	20-03-25	CAB-554	Waste Levy allocation decisions and consolidating environmental funds (draft 1)	Released in part	9(2)(f)(iv), 9(2)(h)	
21	21-03-25	CAB-554	Waste Levy allocation decisions and consolidating environmental funds (draft 2)	Released in part	9(2)(f)(iv), 9(2)(h)	
22	27-03-25	BRF-6061	Waste Levy allocation decisions and consolidating environmental funds (v1)	Released in part	9(2)(f)(iv), 9(2)(h)	

#	Date	Code	Title	Decision	Grounds	Link/Notes
23	02-04-25	BRF-6061	Waste Levy allocation decisions and consolidating environmental funds (v2)	Refused in full	18(d)	https://environment.govt.nz/assets/publications/COMBINED-BRF-6061-Proactive-Release.pdf
24	10-04-25	BRF-5945	Estimates documents for final approval	Released in part	9(2)(a), 18(d)	Appendix 1: https://www.budget.govt.nz/budget/pdfs/estimates/v8/est25-v8-envir.pdf Appendix 2: https://www.budget.govt.nz/budget/pdfs/suppestimates/suppest25envir.pdf
25	10-04-25	BRF-5834	Estimates documents for final approval	Released in part	9(2)(a), 18(d)	Appendix 2: https://www.budget.govt.nz/budget/pdfs/estimates/v8/est25-v8-envir.pdf Appendix 3: https://www.budget.govt.nz/budget/pdfs/suppestimates/suppest25envir.pdf
26	22-05-25	BRF-6244	Waste Minimisation Fund (WMF) investment priorities	Released in part	9(2)(a), 18(d)	Appendix 1 will be proactively released on the Treasury's website by 7 August 2025.
Documents provided to Te Pūrengi						
27	28-11-24		Context pack - Te Pūrengi B25 Workshop 29 Nov	Released in part	9(2)(f)(iv)	
28	28-11-24		Workshop pack - Te Pūrengi B25 Workshop 29 Nov	Released in part	9(2)(f)(iv), 9(2)(g)(i), 9(2)(h)	
29	02-12-24		Summary of B25 TP Workshop 29.11	Released in full		
30	02-12-24		Budget 25 narrative	Released in part	9(2)(f)(iv)	
31	03-12-24		Slidepack for TP discussion 3 Dec	Released in part	9(2)(f)(iv)	
32	03-12-24		Savings scenarios for Te Pūrengi feedback 3 Dec meeting	Released in part	9(2)(g)(i)	
33	04-12-24		Context pack - For Minister Discussions	Released in part	9(2)(f)(iv)	
34	06-12-24		MfE Grants & Funds - B25 Savings Template - Climate	Released in part	9(2)(f)(iv)	
35	06-12-24		MfE Grants & Funds - B25 Savings Template - Environment funds	Released in part	9(2)(a)	
36	06-12-24		B25 Grants and Funds Summary Template - MfE	Released in full		
37	06-12-24		Waste Levy - B25 Savings Template V2	Released in part	9(2)(a)	
38	09-12-24		B25 focus for the w.c	Released in full		
39	10-12-24		Minister Simmonds Budget notes for 10 Dec	Release in part	9(2)(g)(i)	
40	12-12-24		Savings & reprioritisation advice for Te Pūrengi	Released in part	9(2)(f)(iv), 9(2)(g)(i), 9(2)(h)	
41	16-12-24		Minister Bishop Budget notes for 16 Dec	Released in part	9(2)(f)(iv)	
42	18-12-24		Letter from Hon Penny Simmonds to Hon Nicola Willis	Released in full		
43	19-12-24		RM Reform Phase 3 Implementation B25 Cost Pressures and New Spending Template	Withheld in full	9(2)(f)(iv)	
44	19-12-24		Budget 2025 Savings – 25% Reprioritisation of the Resource Management Act Reform Bid	Withheld in full	9(2)(f)(iv)	

#	Date	Code	Title	Decision	Grounds	Link/Notes
45	19-12-24		Budget 2025 Savings – 50% Reprioritisation of the Resource Management Act Reform Bid	Withheld in full	9(2)(f)(iv)	
46	19-12-24		Budget 2025 Savings – 75% Reprioritisation of the Resource Management Act Reform Bid	Withheld in full	9(2)(f)(iv)	
47	29-01-25		Support for the assessment of Budget 2025 climate impacts	Refused in full	18(d)	https://environment.govt.nz/assets/CCCEB-Board-papers-for-29-January-Redacted.pdf Page 24
48	05-02-25		Notes on process forward for Min Seymour Climate baseline savings work	Released in part	9(2)(f)(iv)	
49	19-02-25		Letter from Hon Simon Watts to Hon Nicola Willis	Released in full		
50	21-02-25		Letter from Hon Simon Watts to Hon David Seymour (01)	Released in full		
51	21-02-25		B25 choices	Released in full		
52	25-02-25		Resourcing RM3 through to 30 June 2026	Released in part	9(2)(f)(iv)	
53	06-03-25		Letter from Hon David Seymour to Hon Simon Watts	Released in full		
54	18-03-25		Strategy-led Business Planning 25-26	Released in part	9(2)(f)(iv)	
55	01-04-25		Risks and trade-offs of further scaling the departmental increases by 50% and 75%	Released in full		
56	01-04-25		Scenarios for RM Phase 3 Implementation Initiative	Withheld in full	9(2)(f)(iv)	
57	02-04-25		CIPA Disclosure Sheet B25	Refused in full	18(d)	This document will be proactively released on the Treasury's website by 7 August 2025.
58	09-04-25		Letter from Hon Simon Watts to Hon David Seymour (02)	Released in full		
59	14-04-25	CAB-25-MIN-0126.25	Minute 25 Vote Environment (Technical)	Refused in full	18(d)	This document will be proactively released on the Treasury's website by 7 August 2025.
60	14-04-25	CAB-25-MIN-0126.26	Minute 26 Vote Environment	Refused in full	18(d)	This document will be proactively released on the Treasury's website by 7 August 2025.
61	12-05-25	Initiative No: 16366	Vote Environment - Significant Recommendations - ID 16366 Waste Levy	Refused in full	18(d)	This document will be proactively released on the Treasury's website by 7 August 2025.