



7 May 2024

9(2)a

Dear 9(2)a

Thank you for your email of 14 March 2024 requesting the following under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

All advice and communications on the suspension of the SNA provisions from the NPS-IB.

I'm particularly seeking advice on the process followed for this amendment, and how it complied with that mandated by the RMA.

On 12 April 2024, you agreed to refine your request to only include 'formal advice' regarding SNAs and the NPS-IB.

On 15 April 2024, the Ministry for the Environment (the Ministry) extended the timeframes to respond to your request. We also provided you with decisions on three documents in scope of your request.

There are three additional documents in scope of your request, as outlined in the document schedule below. One of these documents has been released to you in part, with some information withheld under section 9(2)(h) of the Act, to maintain professional legal privilege.

Two documents have been withheld in full 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.

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 decision to withhold information 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

Electronically approved by Hayden Johnston

Hayden Johnston

General Manager – Natural Environment Policy
Ministry for the Environment | Manatū Mō Te Taiao

Document schedule

No.	Date	Content	Decision	OIA section applied
1	31 January 2024	BRF-4066 100-day plan: Ceasing new Significant Natural Areas and review of their operation	Release in part	9(2)(h)
2	9 February 2024	BRF-4177 Scope and timing of initial RMA amendment Bill	Withhold in full	9(2)(f)(iv)
3	15 February 2024	BRF-4264 Seeking feedback on initial RMA amendment Bill	Withhold in full	9(2)(f)(iv)