



OIAD-1023

15 May 2024

9(2)(a)

Dear 9(2)(a)

Thank you for your email of 22 March 2024 requesting the following under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

Am researching the land in Wanaka known as sticky forest, which is owned by the crown and will eventually be transferred to the identified Maori successors according to the Ngāi Tahu treaty settlement of 1998. An application to rezone this land is also the subject of a current environment court appeal...

...so I request under the OIA any correspondence/reports/memos/documents from within the ministry between officials and to the then minister about the land known as sticky forest, or about the Winton property limited proposal for a retirement villlage (Northbrooke Wanaka Retirement Village), from Jan 1 to Oct 31 2020, including anything indicating when the WLP proposal first came to the ministry's attention.

I am refusing your request for 'reports/memos/documents' under section 18(d) of the Act, as the information requested is publicly available.

The Ministry for the Environment (the Ministry) has proactively released all application and decision documents for Northbrook Wanaka Retirement Village. These documents can be accessed here: environment.govt.nz/what-government-is-doing/areas-of-work/fast-track-consenting/northbrook-wanaka-retirement-village/proactive-release-of-application-and-decision-documents/.

Regarding your request for 'correspondence', there are twelve emails in scope of your request. Some information within these documents has been withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the Act, to protect the privacy of natural persons. Some information has also been withheld where it is out of scope of your request.

Please note the Ministry has excluded any emails that are administrative in nature, such as:

- Emails sending formal documentation that is already publicly available,
- Emails organising meeting times, or reviews of documents, and
- Emails discussing fast track consenting in a wider context, where the Northbrook Wanaka Retirement Village application is not discussed substantively.

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 Jo Gascoigne

Jo Gascoigne

General Manager – Resource Management System
Ministry for the Environment | Manatū Mō Te Taiao

Document schedule

No.	Date	Content	Decision	OIA sections
1	July 2020	Email Application for referral – COVID-19 Recovery (Fast-track Consenting) Act...	Release in part Out of scope information withheld	9(2)(a)
2	July 2020	Email RE Application for referral – COVID-19 Recovery (Fast-track Consenting) Act...	Release in part Out of scope information withheld	9(2)(a)
3	July 2020	Email RE Application for referral – COVID-19 Recovery (Fast-track Consenting) Act... (1)	Release in part Out of scope information withheld	9(2)(a)
4	August 2020	Email Letter from Minister Parker – Part 1	Release in part Out of scope information withheld	N/A
5	August 2020	Email Seeking feedback on applications for referral...	Release in part Out of scope information withheld	9(2)(a)
6	Sept 2020	Email Map for Northbrook Wanaka	Release in part	9(2)(a)
7	Sept 2020	Email Wanaka Northbrook Amendment	Release in part	9(2)(a)
8	Sept 2020	Email Update timeframes for Northbrook Wanaka to Cabinet	Release in part	9(2)(a)
9	Oct 2020	Email COVID-19 Recovery Act 2020 – Northbrook Wanaka...	Release in part	9(2)(a)

No.	Date	Content	Decision	OIA sections
10	Oct 2020	Email Letter from Minister Parker	Release in part	9(2)(a)
11	Dec 2020	Email RE Panel as to Northbrook application	Release in part	9(2)(a)
12	August 2021	Email Northbrook Wanaka Retirement Village Decision	Release in part	9(2)(a)