



24 May 2024

OIAD-1050

9(2)(a)

Tēnā koe 9(2)(a)

Thank you for your email of 11 April 2024 to the Ministry for the Environment (the Ministry) requesting the following under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

“Copies of all proposal documents prepared to give effect to the Government’s directive to reduce expenditure in the public service, including but not limited to reduction of staff numbers and resulting redundancies. If no such specific proposal document exists, please provide copies of all documents concerning the reduction of staff and redundancies from 27 November 2023 to present.”

The Ministry has interpreted your request to mean:

“Copies of all proposal documents, where proposal documents are advice documents requiring decision from Ministers or the Ministry’s executive leadership team, prepared to give effect to the Government’s directive to reduce expenditure in the public service, including but not limited to reduction of staff numbers and resulting redundancies”.

On 1 May 2024, the Ministry notified you that we had extended the timeframe for our response to your request under section 15A(1)(b) of the Act, as consultations necessary to make a decision on the request were such that a proper response could not reasonably be made within the original timeframe.

The Ministry has identified 15 documents in scope of your request. I am withholding 14 of these documents, including their titles, 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. The Ministry anticipates that more information about changes to our structure will be able to be released once Budget 24 announcements are made and we have consulted on these with our kaimahi.

I am releasing the document titled ‘*Voluntary Redundancy*’ to you with some information withheld under section 9(2)(ba)(ii) of the Act to protect information which is subject to an obligation of confidence or which any person has been or could be compelled to provide under the authority of any enactment, where the making available of the information would be likely otherwise to damage the public interest.

Please note that the Ministry will be consulting with kaimahi on our proposed structure going forward after Budget 24 announcements are made.

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.

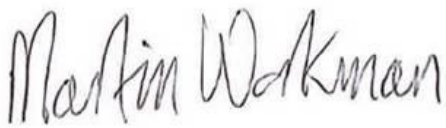
You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Office of the Ombudsman of my decision to withhold information relating to this request, in accordance with section 28(3)

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 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 black ink that reads "Martin Workman". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Martin Workman

Chief of Staff

Ministry for the Environment | Manatū Mō Te Taiao