



2 May 2024

OIAD-1052

9(2)a

Tēnā koe 9(2)a ,

Thank you for your email of 12 April 2024 to the Ministry for the Environment (the Ministry) requesting the following under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

I refer to a Cabinet Office circular dated 25 March 2024, intended for all private secretaries, a copy of which can be found here:

<https://www.dpmc.govt.nz/sites/default/files/2024-03/co-24-2-national-act-new-zealand-first-coalition-govt-consultation-operating-arrangements.pdf>.

Paragraph 38 of the circular advises agencies the following: “Agencies may, on occasion, be asked by their Minister to meet representatives of other parliamentary parties without the Minister present. On such occasions, all those at the meeting should clearly understand that officials are able to provide only a briefing on the issues. As a matter of practice, agencies are advised to keep a record of the substance of any such meeting and consider providing that record to all those who attended the meeting as well as to the Minister. It is also expected that a representative of the relevant portfolio Minister’s office or the Prime Minister’s office will attend these meetings.”

I request copies of all such records under the Official Information Act.

The Ministry does not hold any copies of records relating to meetings between the Ministry and other parliamentary parties without the Minister present between 25 March 2024 and 12 April 2024. I must therefore refuse this request under section 18(e) of the Act as the documents alleged to contain the information requested either do not exist or, despite reasonable efforts to locate them, cannot be found.

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 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,

Electronically approved by Nicole Were

Nicole Were

Manager – Office of the Chief Executive
Ministry for the Environment | Manatū Mō Te Taiao