



4 June 2024

OIAD-1061

9(2)(a)

Tēnā koe 9(2)(a),

Thank you for your email of 22 April 2024 to the Ministry for the Environment (the Ministry) requesting the following under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

- *details of any application made by Future Post to the Waste Minimisation Fund, or any other MFE administered grant/funds, since 2018.*
- *and any associated documents for these applications*
- *any advice or reports prepared for Ministers on Future Post*
- *and advice or reports prepared on Future Post's products (fence posts), including any which deal with leaching.*

There have been three instances in which the Ministry considered Future Post funding applications:

- A Waste Minimisation Fund application in 2018 that requested funding towards a project that would design, manufacture, test and introduce a product to the market. The product would be a plastic alternative to an existing chromated copper arsenate-treated product. This application was declined.
- An expression of interest to the Waste Minimisation Fund in 2020 that requested a funding contribution towards a project to extend their Waiuku facility and establish a South Island facility. This expression of interest was declined.
- In 2021, following the withdrawal of a South Island project that had been allocated funding from the Covid-19 Response and Recovery Fund (CRRF), several discussions were had with Future Post looking at the potential for reallocation of CRRF funds. However, the Ministry determined that we were unable to re-allocate CRRF funding and the unassigned funding was returned to Treasury.

The Ministry has identified nine documents in scope of your request, as per the attached document schedule. I am releasing four documents to you in full.

I am releasing three documents to you with some information withheld under section 9(2)(b)(ii) of the Act to protect information where the making available of the information would be likely unreasonably to prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied or who is the subject of the information.

I am releasing information in scope of your request from two documents as excerpts, which is provided for by section 16(1)(e) of the Act. I am releasing both excerpts with some information withheld under section 9(2)(b)(ii) of the Act to protect information where the making available of the information would be likely unreasonably to prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied or who is the subject of the information.

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,



Lara Cowen

Manager – Waste Circular Solutions

Ministry for the Environment | Manatū Mō Te Taiao

Document schedule

Doc no.	Document date	Content	Decisions	OIA sections applied
1	Unknown	Future Post WMF Expression of Interest	Released in part	9(2)(b)(ii)
2	9/05/2018	Future Post 2018 WMF Application	Released in part	9(2)(b)(ii)
3	25/11/2019	Doc 3 - Future post leaching test report_21564741	Released in full	N/A
4	5/02/2021	Future Post CRRF A15 proposal	Released in part	9(2)(b)(ii)
5	16/02/2021	Clariant New Zealand Laboratory Report	Released in full	N/A
6	27/07/2021	CRRF A15 SIPP FuturePost BRANZ Report FINAL	Released in full	N/A
7	30/07/2021	Scientific critique- Future Post Research data supplied by MfE	Released in full	N/A
8	06/09/2018	Excerpt from 2018 WMF applications briefing to Minister	Released in part	9(2)(b)(ii); 16(1)(e)
9	6/07/2020	Excerpt from 2020 WMF expressions of interest briefing to Minister	Released in part	9(2)(b)(ii); 16(1)(e)