



13 May 2024

OIAD-1077

9(2)a

9(2)a

Dear 9(2)a

Thank you for your email of 02 May 2024 making the following request under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

*I live near Taupo and I'm becoming increasingly concerned about the amount of aerosol spraying taking place in the skies of my vicinity. These sprays start as a thin line that resembles a contrail but they are not contrails as they spread out to cover the sky with a haze. This is not low level 'crop dusting' for farmers. I know what that is. This spraying is occurring at fairly high altitude and it spreads out and drifts a considerable distance blocking the sun. I know of a person in my area who has personally conducted a test of the air quality from a small plane and when the results of the samples were taken it was found in lab test an inordinate amount of aluminium dust in the sample along with other chemicals that should not belong in our skies. What is going on? Is aerosol spraying happening in our skies?*

I am refusing your request in full under section 18(g) of the Act, as the information requested is not held by the Ministry and I have no reason to believe the information is held by another agency.

There is no evidence to support the occurrence of deliberate spraying of chemicals from aircraft. The persistent white trails in skies that have been attributed to "chem trails" are either vapour trails from aircraft, or clouds which have been formed by a natural process known as cloud streeting. Vapour trails are sensitive to moisture levels and the stability of the atmosphere, and small changes in these parameters can affect their appearance and persistence. Under certain atmospheric conditions, the vapour trails can last for a few hours and spread out due to winds.

You can be assured that there is no deliberate spraying of chemicals from aircraft or the use of any other weather modification by the Government.

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](http://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](mailto:ministerials@mfe.govt.nz).

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Macaela Flanagan'.

Macaela Flanagan, Manager – Delivery and Oversight  
Ministry for the Environment | Manatū Mō Te Taiao