



12 September 2024

OIAD-1109

9(2)(a)

Tēnā koe 9(2)(a)

Thank you for your email of 30 May 2024 to the Ministry for the Environment (the Ministry) requesting the following under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

- *All initiatives, if any, that were submitted but not funded through Budget 2024.*
- *All correspondence, if any, with the Minister of Finance's Office, including but not limited to letters, emails and text messages, regarding initiatives that were submitted but not funded through Budget 2024.*
- *All correspondence, if any, with your Minister's Office, including but not limited to letters, emails and text messages, regarding initiatives that were submitted but not funded through Budget 2024.*
- *All initiatives, if any, that were scaled for Budget 2024, including the initial funding request of the initiative and the final funded level.*
- *All correspondence, if any, with the Minister of Finance's Office, including but not limited to letters, emails and text messages, regarding initiatives that were scaled for Budget 2024*
- *All correspondence, if any, with your Minister's Office, including but not limited to letters, emails and text messages, regarding initiatives that were scaled for Budget 2024*

*Where you refuse to release a document, I request the name of the document and the reason that it was withheld.*

The Ministry has identified 23 documents in scope of your request, as per the attached document schedule.

I am releasing 13 documents to you in full.

I am releasing nine documents with some information withheld under the following sections of the Act:

- 9(2)(a) - to protect the privacy of natural persons;
- 9(2)(f)(iv) - to maintain the constitutional conventions for the time being which protect the confidentiality of advice tendered by Ministers of the Crown and officials;
- 9(2)(g)(i) - to maintain the effective conduct of public affairs through the free and frank expression of opinions by or between or to Ministers of the Crown or members of an organisation or officers and employees of any public service agency or organisation in the course of their duty; and
- 9(2)(i) - to enable a Minister of the Crown or any public service agency or organisation holding the information to carry out, without prejudice or disadvantage, commercial activities.

I am refusing one document under section 18(d) of the Act as the information requested is already, or will soon be, publicly available.

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

Nāku noa, nā,



**Arun Patel**

General Manager – Finance & Procurement  
Ministry for the Environment | Manatū Mō Te Taiao

### Document schedule

| Doc<br>c<br>no. | Documen<br>t date | Content   | Decisions  | OIA<br>sections<br>applied |
|-----------------|-------------------|---|--|----------------------------|
| A               | 14/02/2024        | Budget bid _ RMA  | Released in part   | 9(2)(f)(iv);<br>9(2)(g)(i) |
| B               | 21/02/2024        | Budget 2024 info for weekend bag  | Released in full   | N/A                        |
| C               | 14/03/2024        | Environment Budget Bilateral with Hons Willis,<br>Bishop, Simmonds & Watts                  | Released in part   | 9(2)(f)(iv)                |
| D               | Unknown           | B24 New Spending Template – RM Reforms<br>Replacement (Annex 4)                             | Released in part   | 9(2)(f)(iv)                |
| E               | 16/02/2024        | CORM-2083 Response to MOF –<br>Environment portfolio (final sent)                           | Released in full   | N/A                        |
| 1               | 29-Jan-24         | BRF-4127 – Budget 2024 Initial Baseline<br>Exercise   | Released in part   | 9(2)(f)(iv)                |
| 2               | 29-Jan-24         | BRF-4127 Attachment 1: Letter from the<br>Minister of Finance – 23 December 2023            | Refused in full<br>(to be released<br>by the New<br>Zealand<br>Treasury) | 18(d)                      |
| 3               | 29-Jan-24         | BRF-4127 Attachment 2: Summary table –<br>Proposed cost savings package                     | Released in full   | N/A                        |
| 4               | 5-Feb-24          | BRF-4168 – Further information on baseline<br>savings                                       | Released in part   | 9(2)(f)(iv)                |
| 5               | 5-Feb-24          | BRF-4168 Attachment 1: Impact on the<br>Ministry's FTE capability and<br>capacity (updated) | Released in full   | N/A                        |
| 6               | 7-Feb-24          | BRF-4168 Attachment 2: Summary of<br>intended changes to the existing work<br>programme     | Released in full   | N/A                        |
| 7               | 5-Feb-24          | BRF-4168 Attachment 3: Complete list of non-<br>departmental eligible baseline savings      | Released in full   | N/A                        |
| 8               | 13-Feb-24         | RM Budget bid – summary tables (sent via<br>email to be read alongside BRF-4237)            | Released in part   | 9(2)(f)(iv)                |
| 9               | 13-Feb-24         | BRF-4346 Aide Memoire: Funding queries  | Released in part   | 9(2)(f)(iv)                |
| 10              | 29-Jan-24         | BRF-4083 Budget 2024 Initiative: Resource<br>management reforms – replacement               | Released in full   | N/A                        |
| 11              | 8-May-24          | Vote Environment Key messages and Final<br>Draft SOIs                                       | Released in full   | N/A                        |

|    |           |  |                  |                                     |
|----|-----------|--|------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 12 | 9-May-24  | BRF 4621 Aide memoire: Next steps following Budget 24 Decisions              | Released in part | 9(2)(a);<br>9(2)(f)(iv);<br>9(2)(i) |
| 13 | 20-May-24 | Additional info on BRF-4621 - for Minister Bishop - 20 May 2024              | Released in part | 9(2)(f)(iv)                         |
| 14 | 29-May-24 | MfE Budget 2024 Communications Plan  | Released in full | N/A                                 |
| 15 | 29-May-24 | Summary of initiatives   | Released in full | N/A                                 |
| 16 | 17-May-24 | Savings – Slides – Budget 24 Comms   | Released in full | N/A                                 |
| 17 | 17-May-24 | MfE Budget and change key facts (final version)                              | Released in full | N/A                                 |
| 18 | 28-Mar-24 | BRF-4553 Appendix 3 – Budget 2024 initial baseline exercise summary template | Released in part | 9(2)(f)(iv)                         |