



26 July 2024

OIAD-1112

9(2)(a)

Dear 9(2)(a)

Thank you for your call on 31 May 2024. In our call you asked for the advice that was provided in relation to the Environmental Legal Assistance (ELA) Fund. For the purposes of responding to you, we have treated this as a request under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), for copies of advice regarding the cessation of funding for the ELA.

On 1 July 2024, the Ministry for the Environment (the Ministry) extended the timeframe for its response to your request by 20 working days 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 12 documents in scope of your request, as listed in the attached document schedule.

One document is being released to you in full.

In-scope information within the remaining 11 documents is being released to you as excerpts, as provided for under section 16(1)(e) of the Act.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Office of the Ombudsman of my decision 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 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.

Yours sincerely

Phirak Appleton

General Manager – Legal and Risk
Ministry for the Environment | Manatū Mō Te Taiao

Document schedule

Doc no.	Document date	Content	Decisions	OIA sections applied	Purpose of document
1.	2/2/2024	BRF-4162 Aide Memoire: Overview of Key Environment Non-Government Organisations (ENGOS)	Released in part	16(e)	This document provided the Minister for the Environment with information on the key Environmental Non-Government Organisation (ENGO) stakeholder groups that engage regularly with the Government on environmental issues, including in relation to their funding.
2.	5/2/2024	BRF-4168 Attachment 2: Summary of intended changes to the existing work programme	Released in part	16(e)	This document provided Ministers with an assessment of how the Ministry's work programme may need to adapt to reduced funding. The status designated to each project or service was indicative only.
3.	5/2/2024	BRF-4168 Attachment 3: Complete list of non-departmental eligible baseline savings	Released in part	16(e)	This document provided Ministers with a complete list of non-departmental eligible baseline savings.
4.	12/2/2024	BRF-4237 – Revised baseline savings package	Released in part	16(e)	This document presented Ministers with a revised baseline savings package that reflected their direction and sought further direction to finalise the package.
5.	12/2/2024	BRF-4237 Attachment 1: Revised baseline savings package	Released in part	16(e)	This document provided Ministers with the revised baseline savings package.
6.	12/2/2024	BRF-4237 Attachment 2: Recent Environmental Legal Assistance Fund applications and panel decisions	Released in full	n/a	This document provided Ministers with a list of the ELA applications and funding decisions made by the independent advisory

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					panel over the last three years.
7.	8/5/2024	Vote Environment Key messages and Final Draft SOIs	Released in part	16(e)	This document provided Ministers with summary information on elements of the Vote Environment Budget 24 package.
8.	9/5/2024	BRF 4621 Aide memoire: Next steps following Budget 24 Decisions	Released in part	16(e)	This document provided Ministers with a summary of Budget 24 decisions and next steps, including the impacts for the Ministry and third parties, and how these would be implemented and communicated.
9.	17/5/2024	Savings – Slides – Budget 24 Comms	Released in part	16(e)	This document provided Ministers with information on elements of the Vote Environment Budget 24 package.
10.	17/5/2024	MfE budget and change key facts	Released in part	16(e)	This document provided Ministers with summary information on elements of the Vote Environment Budget 24 package and the Ministry's proposed structural change.
11.	29/5/2024	MfE Budget 2024 Communications Plan	Released in part	16(e)	This document provided Ministers with an overview of the communications approach to Budget 24 and key messages.
12.	29/5/2024	Summary of initiatives Final Cuts – Environment	Released in part	16(e)	This document provided Ministers with a summary of Budget 24 initiatives in Vote Environment.