



3 September 2024

OIAD-1199

9(2)(a)

Tēnā koe 9(2)(a)

Thank you for your email of 8 August 2024 making the following request under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

I am emailing in the hopes of finding the 'further briefing' referred to at the very end of this briefing: https://environment.govt.nz/assets/OIA/Files/Doc5-Briefing_4298_Extending_the_Ministerial_Direction_on_Otago_Regional_Council_freshwater_plan-for_release.pdf, where it states "A further briefing is being prepared outlining available options to stop ORC, and any other Councils, from notifying freshwater plans."

Additionally, any correspondence related to this 'further briefing' would be appreciated.

The briefing that you are referring to is "BRF-4377 Options to prevent notification of freshwater plans prior to the NPS-FM review and replacement".

I am refusing this briefing and all associated correspondence in full under section 9(2)(f)(iv) of the Act to maintain the constitutional conventions for the time being which protect the confidentiality of advice tendered by Ministers of the Crown and officials.

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 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

Nik Andic
Manager – Land and Water System
Ministry for the Environment | Manatū Mō Te Taiao