



9 September 2024

OIAD-1206

9(2)(a)

Tēnā koe 9(2)(a)

Thank you for your email of 16 August 2024 making the following request under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

Could I please have all advice from MfE to Minister Watts about the makeup of the methane review panel and terms of reference, including briefing BRF-4767.

The Ministry for the Environment (the Ministry) has identified 13 documents in scope of your request, as listed in the below document schedule.

I am releasing these documents to you in part, 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 between ministers and officials.
- 18(d) as the information is already publicly available.

The Terms of Reference withheld from Documents 4, 10, 11, and 13 is available in final form at: environment.govt.nz/assets/news/Methane-Science-and-Target-Review-Terms-of-Reference.pdf.

The final Cabinet paper referenced in Documents 2, 3, 5, 7, 8, and 9 will soon be publicly available at: <https://environment.govt.nz/what-government-is-doing/cabinet-papers-and-regulatory-impact-statements/>.

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 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

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Cheryl Moir'.

Cheryl Moir
Manager – Market Development
Ministry for the Environment | Manatū Mō Te Taiao

Document schedule

#	Date	Code	Content	Decision	OIA sections
1	01/03/2024	BRF-4278	Methane Science and Targets Review	Released in part	9(2)(a)
2	15/03/2024	BRF-4449	Cover brief & Cabinet paper – Announcing the Methane Science and Target Review	Released in part	9(2)(a) 18(d)
3	21/03/2024	BRF-4449/ Sub24-0037	Approval to lodge: Announcing the methane science and target review	Released in part	9(2)(a) 9(2)(g)(i) 18(d)
4	10/04/2024	BRF-4562	Progressing the Methane Science and Target Review	Released in part	9(2)(a) 9(2)(f)(iv) 9(2)(g)(i) 18(d)
5	09/05/2024	BRF-4669	For Ministerial Consultation – Initiating the Methane Science and Targets Review	Released in part	9(2)(a) 9(2)(g)(i) 18(d)
6	27/05/2024	BRF-4767	Shortlisting of candidates for the Methane Science and Target Review Panel	Released in part	9(2)(a) 9(2)(g)(i)
7	23/05/2024	BRF-4812	Approval to lodge: Initiating the methane science and target review	Released in part	9(2)(a) 9(2)(g)(i) 18(d)
8	23/05/2024	BRF-4710	Proactive Release of Cabinet paper Announcing the Methane Science and Target Review Proposal	Released in part	9(2)(a) 18(d)
9	31/05/2024	BRF-4761	For Ministerial Consultation – Methane 10Science and Targets Review: Appointment	Released in part	9(2)(a) 9(2)(g)(i) 18(d)

10	13/06/2024	BRF-4905	Finalising the Terms of Reference for the Methane Science and Target Review (v1)	Released in part	9(2)(a) 9(2)(g)(i) 18(d)
11	19/06/2024	BRF-4905	Finalising the Terms of Reference for the Methane Science and Target Review (v2)	Released in part	9(2)(a) 9(2)(g)(i) 18(d)
12	24/06/2024	BRF-4951	For Approval: Methane Science and Target Review Appointment Letters	Released in part	9(2)(a)
13	24/06/2024	BRF-4947	For approval: Methane Science and Target Review Terms of Reference	Released in part	18(d)