



7 October 2024

OIAD-1247

9(2)(a)

Tēnā koe 9(2)(a)

Thank you for your emails of 3 and 10 September 2024 requesting the following under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

Any correspondence and advice (including official advice sent and received, emails, instant messages, texts, meeting notes, meeting agendas, A3s etc) sent between the Ministry for the Environment and the Minister of Climate Change, or his Office, on the following Cabinet paper (and if the title of the Cabinet paper has changed – the paper which was developed from this paper): NDC – approval for officials to begin engagement with other countries (but not purchasing).

The Cabinet paper that you reference in your request, which was intended to be considered by Cabinet in August this year, has been deferred and is yet to be finalised and/or considered by Cabinet. We expect this to be considered in the first half of 2025. As a result, the 29 emails and documents that the Ministry for the Environment has identified as in scope of your request must be withheld 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.

We expect that once Cabinet have considered this cabinet paper, it will be published on our website within 30 working days per the Cabinet Manual. We encourage you to check the Ministry for the Environment's website for any updates on this subject matter at: environment.govt.nz/what-government-is-doing/cabinet-papers-and-regulatory-impact-statements/

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.

Nāku noa, nā

Jacqui Ruesga
Manager, International Markets
Ministry for the Environment | Manatū Mō Te Taiao