



OIAD-127

9(2)(a)

Dear 9(2)(a)

Thank you for your email of 21 September 2021 requesting the following under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

We would like to request the spreadsheets used to produce the Soil Contaminant Standards as described in the MfE (2011) Methodology for Deriving Standards for Contaminants in Soil to Protect Human Health.

The Ministry for the Environment (the Ministry) is refusing your request under section 18(e) of the Act as despite reasonable efforts to locate the information, it cannot be found.

The Soil Contaminant Standards referred to in the request were developed by external consultants and provided to the Ministry. The Ministry therefore does not hold the spreadsheets used by the consultants to develop these standards.

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

Scott Priestley
Manager- Waste Operations (Contaminated land)