



24 October 2024

OIAD-1283

9(2)(a)

Tēnā koe 9(2)(a)

Thank you for your emails of 6 and 13 September 2024 to the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet (DPMC) making the following request under the Official Information Act (the Act):

*“Could you please provide me with all briefings to the previous Minister for Cyclone Recovery (Grant Robertson) and all Cabinet papers that detail the concept (policy development) of ‘intolerable life safety risk’ and the expected outcomes in terms of insurance cover, resilience and disaster risk reduction.*

*Could you also please provide me with any documentation around the consideration/utilisation of building damage ratios and the time that it would take to get residential homes and associated infrastructure back to functionality.”*

On 26 September 2024, DPMC transferred your request to the Ministry for the Environment (the Ministry) and the Treasury.

The Treasury and the Ministry, in consultation with the Cyclone Recovery Taskforce and other agencies, prepared advice for the previous government on the risk categorisation framework that relates to the locally-led response to the 2023 North Island Weather Events in Auckland, Gisborne, and the Hawke’s Bay. The risk categorisation framework includes risk to life and safety and where land damage makes rebuilding technically or economically infeasible as a criteria for Category 3.

I have identified four documents held by the Ministry in scope of the first part of your request. I am withholding these in full under section 9(2)(h) of the Act to maintain legal professional privilege.

The Treasury is managing the release of any further documents in scope of your request, including those that were jointly developed by the Ministry and the Treasury.


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 its website at:

[www.ombudsman.parliament.nz](http://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](mailto:ministerials@mfe.govt.nz).

Ngā mihi nui

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Emma Corbett', with a stylized, cursive script.

**Emma Corbett**  
Manager – Adaptation Policy  
Ministry for the Environment | Manatū Mō Te Taiao

### Document schedule

#	Date	Title	Decision	Grounds
1	22/06/2023	Local government powers to make voluntary buyout offers/grants	Withheld in full	9(2)(h)
2	27/06/2023	Treaty obligations: central government funding support for property owners in severely affected locations	Withheld in full	9(2)(h)
3	11/07/2023	Updated advice: Advice on central government legal risk in respect of the future of severely affected locations (FOSAL) – Part 1	Withheld in full	9(2)(h)
4	28/07/2023	LGNZ-commissioned legal advice: Important need for legal certainty for councils undertaking voluntary buyouts	Withheld in full	9(2)(h)