



24 October 2024

9(2)(a)

Dear 9(2)(a)

Thank you for your email of 27 September 2024 requesting the following under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

*Hi MfE, I have an OIA request related to the below 2024 budget appropriation (Ministry for the Environment). Please provide me with all Cabinet Papers and advice to ministers related to the cost of replacing the RMA, and or operating a new consenting regime which replaces the RMA, and or implementing and operating the referenced fast-track consenting regime. Many thanks, best,* 9(2)(a)

<https://budget.govt.nz/information-release/2024/pdf/b24-frs-sig-envir-4983555.pdf>

*Resource Management Reforms - Replacement This initiative provides \$92.235 million total operating funding to deliver the Government's resource management reforms, including fast-track consenting legislation, Resource Management Act (RMA) amendments, updates to national direction and RMA replacement legislation. Funding is provided in outyears for ongoing operation of the resource management system to support system change.*

For ease of response I have split your request into two parts.

*Please provide me with all Cabinet Papers and advice to ministers related to the cost of:*

Part One

- *replacing the RMA, and or operating a new consenting regime which replaces the RMA;*

Part Two

- *and or implementing and operating the referenced fast-track consenting regime*

There are 12 documents within scope of part one of your request. I am refusing this part under section 18(d) of the Act, as the information is publicly available on the Ministry for the Environment's website and can be found here: [Request for Budget Bid 2024 information | Ministry for the Environment](#).

There are five documents within scope for the second part of your request. I am refusing this part, including the titles of these documents, 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](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).

Yours sincerely



Arun Patel  
General Manager – Finance & Procurement  
Ministry for the Environment | Manatū Mō Te Taiao

### Document schedule

Document no.	Document date	Content	Decisions	OIA sections applied
1	29/2/2024	BRF-4127: Briefing: Budget 2024 Initial Baseline Exercise	Refused in full	18(d)
2	12/2/2024	BRF-4237: Briefing baseline savings package	Refused in full	18(d)
3	29/1/2024	BRF-4083: Budget 2024 Initiative: Resource management reforms – replacement	Refused in full	18(d)
4		Vote Environment Key messages and Final Draft SOIs	Refused in full	18(d)
5	9/5/2024	BRF-4621: Aide memoire: Next steps following Budget 24 Decisions	Refused in full	18(d)
6	20/5/2024	BRF-4621: additional information for Minister Bishop	Refused in full	18(d)
7		MfE Budget 2024 Communications Plan	Refused in full	18(d)
8		Savings- slides – Budget 24 comms	Refused in full	18(d)
9		MfE budget and change key facts	Refused in full	18(d)
10		BRF 4553 Appendix 3 – Budget 2024	Refused in full	18(d)

		Initial Baseline Exercise Summary template		
11		Budget bid RMA	Refused in full	18(d)
12		CORM-2083 Environment Portfolio – Budget 2024 – Ministerial Submission Letter Final	Refused in full	18(d)