



20 November 2024

OIAD-1361

9(2)(a)

Dear 9(2)(a),

Thank you for your email of 15 October 2024 to the Office of Hon Penny Simmonds, the Minister for the Environment, requesting the following under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

- (i) All correspondence between the Minister or their office with other Ministers or their offices, regarding savings initiatives or new spending initiatives in Budget 2024.*
- (ii) All reports, briefings, emails, memos, aides-memoire, notes or written advice, that the Minister or their office has received regarding baseline savings targets and baseline savings initiatives for Budget 2024.*
- (iii) All correspondence between the Minister or their office with other Ministers or their offices, that describe the impact or potential impact on frontline services due to Budget 2024 decisions.*
- (iv) Any reports, briefings, emails, memos, aides-memoire, notes or written advice received by the Minister or their office from their agency or agencies that describe the impact or potential impact on frontline services due to Budget 2024 decisions.*

On 30 October 2024, points (ii) and (iv) of your request were partially transferred to the Ministry for the Environment (the Ministry) under section 14(b)(ii) of the Act, as those points of the request were deemed more closely connected with the functions of the Ministry.

The information in-scope of points (ii) and (iv) of your request is publicly available, here: <https://environment.govt.nz/oia-releases/request-for-budget-bid-2024-programme-cuts/>. As such, these points of your request are refused under section 18(d) of the Act, as the requested information is publicly available.

Please note that the Ministry for the Environment (the Ministry) considers the emails in scope of these points of your request to be perfunctory as they merely channel the substantive advice, which is already publicly available.

Regarding point (iv) of your request, the Ministry does not define or differentiate frontline services. The documents captured in part (ii) of this request will also encapsulate advice on the wider impacts of Budget 2024 decisions on the Ministry.

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

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Arun Patel', with a stylized flourish at the end.

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