



26 October 2021

9(2)(a)

Dear 9(2)(a)

I refer to your email of 24 September 2021 to Te Puni Kōkiri (TPK) requesting the following information under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

- *What is the total amount of hectares of Indigenous Forest on Māori Freehold Land?*
- *What percentage of Māori freehold land hold Aotearoa native biodiversity?*

On 5 October 2021, TPK transferred your request to the Ministry for the Environment (the Ministry) under section 14(b)(ii) of the Act, as the request for information is more closely connected with the functions of the Ministry.

The Ministry holds the following information from 2018.

What is the total amount of hectares of Indigenous Forest on Māori Freehold Land?

There is a total of 446,088 hectares of indigenous forest on Māori Freehold Land¹.

What percentage of Māori freehold land hold Aotearoa native biodiversity?

We do not have information on the percentage of Māori freehold land that holds biodiversity across Aotearoa. We do have information on the amount of Māori freehold land which has indigenous land cover, this is broken down as follows.

48% of Māori freehold land has indigenous land cover. This is made up of:

- 33% covered by indigenous forest.
- 13% covered by indigenous scrub/shrubland.
- 2% covered by indigenous tussock grassland.

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 publishes responses to requests for official information on our [OIA responses page](#) shortly after the response has

¹ Data from MfE GIS analysis of databases: Land Cover Database, Threatened Environment Classification and land ownership layers. Originally completed for the Biodiversity Collaborative Group, 2018.

been sent. If you have any queries about this, please feel free to contact our Ministerial Services team: ministerials@mfe.govt.nz.

Yours sincerely

Electronically Approved

Hayden Johnston
Director - Water and Land Use Policy

Released under the provision of
the Official Information Act 1982