



OIAD-43

9(2)(a)

Dear 9(2)(a)

Thank you for your email of 31 May 2021 requesting the following under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

Could you please send me the 'Statement of Evidence to the Board of Inquiry in the matter of the Proposed National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management on behalf of Te Runanga o Ngai Tahu, 21 July 2009' by David Higgins?

The information requested falls outside the scope of the Act. Section 2(h)(iii) of the Act excludes evidence given or submissions made to a commission of inquiry or board of inquiry or court of inquiry or committee of inquiry appointed. Therefore, the Ministry for the Environment (the Ministry) has decided to refuse your request.

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

Yours sincerely

Keita Kohere
Director - Operations