



OIAD-544

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Tēnā Koe 9(2)(a)

Thank you for your email of 7 February 2023 requesting the following under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act).

You may be interested to know about some of the practical steps the Ministry has taken to reduce its carbon footprint. In Wellington, the Ministry encourages the use of public transport through the provision of Snapper cards and a low-emissions fleet of scooters and e-bikes. Like many organisations, the Ministry has rolled out videoconference technology to connect our nationwide workforce and consult with external organisations. This initiative reduces the Ministry's biggest emission profile of domestic and international travel. In addition to video conference technology, the Ministry has implemented a flexible by default working policy which sees many more people working from home and reducing emissions resulting from a daily commute. This approach ensures that the Ministry also has a critical contextual grasp of localised environmental issues which bolsters the Ministry's effectiveness throughout Aotearoa.

I have provided a response below to each of the questions you have raised.

1. *Please detail each annual carbon travel limit Manatū Mō Te Taiao Ministry for the Environment (MfE) has, including those for full-time staff, part-time staff, casual staff, contractors and consultants.*

The Ministry does not set carbon travel limits but, as part of our Sustainability Strategy, we have targets to reduce emissions by 35 per cent by June 2025, and halve absolute emissions by 2030 compared to 2017/18 levels. To help us work towards these targets, we set an overall annual reduction ambition for our travel emissions and associated 'emissions budgets' for each of our internal Business Groups. The emissions budgets are focused on air travel as it makes up 90% of our overall emissions, and help Groups benchmark their performance and reduce emissions as much as possible.

The annual reduction ambition is based on the trajectory from our base year towards our 2025 and 2030 targets. We measure and report on our emissions, including our travel emissions annually by financial year (1 July to 30 June) in our annual report, in our climate-related disclosure and on our website (links below).

[Ministry for the Environment annual report 2021/22 | Ministry for the Environment](#)

[Ministry for the Environment climate-related disclosure 2021/22 | Ministry for the Environment](#)
[Our sustainability | Ministry for the Environment](#)

We do not collect this data by category of staff so do not have information to the level of detail requested so this is refused under section 18(g) because the information is not held by the Ministry.

2. *In the past 12 months (1 February 2022 to 1 February 2023), how many of the MfE carbon travel limits were reached, if any?*

As we measure and manage our emissions budgets by financial year (FY), we cannot provide the information for the period requested. It is only at the end of this FY that we finalise our emissions actuals and how we've performed against our ambition. The information for 2021/22 has been published in the [Ministry's Annual Report](#) (as noted in the response to question 1). Our travel emissions for the current FY will be reported in our next annual report, however, the Ministry is tracking to its planned reduction trajectory.

3. *If any carbon travel limits were reached, when were they reached (e.g. August 31, 2022, 4 months before the annual period ended)?*

This part of the request is refused under section 18(g) because the information is not held by the Ministry. Please refer to my response to question two, which explains why it's not held by the Ministry and can't be provided.

4. *If any carbon travel limits were reached, how much travel is recorded after the day they were reached within the annual period (e.g. 54 kilometres of travel were recorded over the annual limit in 2022)?*

This part of the request is refused under section 18(g) because the information is not held by the Ministry. Please refer to my response to question two, which explains why it's not held by the Ministry and can't be provided.

5. *What changes are implemented if a carbon travel limit is reached?*

We do not have carbon travel limits, therefore, there are no changes as a consequence of exceeding these. This part of the request is refused under section 18(g) because the information is not held by the Ministry.

6. *When were carbon travel limits introduced for MfE?*

The Ministry's annual internal travel emissions budgets were first set for the 2021/22 financial year.

7. *How many years, since carbon travel limits were introduced, has MfE recorded travel in excess of the annual limit?*

Our carbon emissions from travel have been within our travel emissions budgets every financial year since introducing this measure. This means we have not recorded travel in excess of our annual reduction ambition.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Office of the Ombudsman of my decision relating to this request, in accordance with section 28(3) of the Act. The relevant details can be found on their website at: <https://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

I hope this information is helpful for your purposes. Thank you once again for writing.

Ngā mihi



Pepi Batsos
Director - Organisational Strategy and Performance