



9(2)a

Dear 9(2)a,

Thank you for your email of 17 November 2023 requesting the following under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

I would like to request official information about the following payments made by The Ministry for the Environment over the past 5 years (to the year ended 30 June 2023):

- 1) All payments made to incorporated societies, charities and NGOs with a brief description of what each payment was for (including for example organisations like The Aotearoa Circle).*
- 2) All payments made to Maori Trusts, Corporations and the like, with the date and a brief description of what the payment was for.*
- 3) All payments made to the following entities with the date, amount, purpose for the payment and what was purchased:*
 - The Environmental Defence Society Incorporated*
 - The Royal Forest and Bird Protection Society of New Zealand Incorporated*
 - Greenpeace Aotearoa*
 - The Aotearoa Circle*
 - Any other "environmental NGO" or similar organisation.*

On 30 November and 7 December 2023, the Ministry for the Environment (the Ministry) requested that you refine your request. On 8 December 2024, you confirmed your agreement to the refined request below:

Are you able to send me a report on all Trusts and Incorporated Societies? This is fairly obvious from the vendor names in the spreadsheet you sent me.

Some aren't labeled with "Inc" on the end e.g. Forest and Bird, Philanthropy NZ, Sustainable Business Network, Rainbow Tick, SPCA, Royal Society of NZ, Environmental Defence Society, Environment River Patrol, but in other cases these are correctly labeled e.g. Generation Zero Incorporated, The Skills Organisation Incorporated, Sustainable Business Council, Tahuri Whenua Inc. Society, Tangata Tiriti - Treaty People Incorporated.

Most of the Trusts are labeled, e.g. The Aotearoa Circle Trust, but there are quite a few that aren't labeled as a company (Ltd) so perhaps it will be easier to just send the report on them as well.

The Ministry has compiled the information in scope of your request in the document titled *OIAD-860 Supporting Spreadsheet*, which is being released to you in full. Please note that, due to the number contracts in scope of your request that would need to be assessed, it would be difficult for the Ministry to meet your request for "reason for payment" without significantly impacting our other operations and functions. The FMIS reporting system does

not readily capture the specific "reason for payment" details you've requested. Obtaining this level of granularity would require further analysis of the individual contracts involved, including potentially consulting with the contract owner for verification.

For this reason, the Ministry is refusing this part of your request under section 18(f) of the Act, as the information requested cannot be made available without substantial collation or research. However, the Ministry welcomes the opportunity to work with you with you on a new request under the Act so that we can provide you with information that is of use to you.

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: 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



Arun Patel
General Manager - Finance and Procurement
Ministry for the Environment | Manatū Mō Te Taiao