



OIAD-915

9(2)a

Dear 9(2)a

Thank you for your email of 3 January 2024 requesting an urgent response to the following under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

“Information and advice provided to the incoming Minister [for RMA Reform] on the following item listed on the Government’s 100 days action plan:

- 22 Begin to cease implementation of new Significant Natural Areas and seek advice on operation of the areas.”*

The Ministry for the Environment has identified the following document in scope of your request:

- ‘BRF-3970 – 100 day commitment: Approach to ceasing implementation of new Significant Natural Areas’

This document is being released in part, with some information withheld under section 9(2)(f)(iv) of the Act, to maintain the constitutional conventions for the time being which protect the confidentiality of advice tendered by Ministers of the Crown and officials.

In terms of section 9(1) of the Act, I am satisfied that, in the circumstances, the withholding of this information is not outweighed by other considerations that render it desirable to make the information available in the public interest.

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

Hayden Johnston

General Manager – Natural Environment Policy
Ministry for the Environment | Manatū Mō Te Taiao