



OIAD-924

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Dear 9(2)a

On 23 December 2023 you contacted the Department of Internal Affairs (the Department) requesting the following under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

Who accompanied Minister Paula Bennett when she travelled to New York in the United States of America in April 2016 to sign the Paris Climate Change Accord on behalf of the New Zealand Government. In particular, which other Ministers and/or employees of the Crown accompanied her, in what capacity, and the names, titles and roles of any consultants in their private capacity or whether employees of consulting services companies accompanying her to any ceremony or ceremonies on that trip in April 2016.

On 19 January 2024 the Department transferred your request to the Ministry for the Environment (the Ministry) and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade for response under section 14(b) of the Act.

The Ministry has checked our records and can advise that Ministry official Kay Harrison, Lead Negotiator, International Carbon Markets, accompanied Minister Paula Bennett on the relevant trip. Kay Harrison accompanied the Minister to provide support to bilateral meetings on the topic of domestic climate change policy.

You will also receive a response from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade regarding further information about any other officials or ministers accompanied Minister Bennett.

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

Electronically approved by Jacqui Ruesga

Jacqui Ruesga

Manager, International Markets
Ministry for the Environment | Manatū Mō Te Taiao