



20 March 2024

9(2)a

Dear 9(2)a

Thank you for your email of 21 February 2024 requesting the following under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

1. *Assessment of Environmental Impact: Has the Ministry for the Environment conducted any formal studies or assessments on the environmental impact of chewing gum litter and its non-biodegradable nature? If so, please provide copies of these reports or summaries of their findings.*
2. *Policy Considerations: Is the Ministry for the Environment considering any recommendations or policy changes about chewing gum, particularly in light of its environmental impact? Please provide any relevant documents or correspondence.*
3. *Public/Stakeholder Consultations: Has the Ministry for the Environment held any consultations with the public, environmental groups, or local councils regarding the issue of chewing gum litter and potential restrictions or bans? If so, please provide summaries or records of these consultations.*
4. *International Examples: Has the Ministry for the Environment examined any international examples of chewing gum restrictions or bans (such as Singapore's model)? Please provide any analysis or reports related to these examples.*

The Ministry for the Environment (the Ministry) was not able to find any information relating specifically to points 1, 2, and 4 of your request. Therefore, I am refusing these points of your request under section 18(g) of the Act as no information requested is held by the Ministry and we have no grounds to believe it is held by any other agency.

In response to point 3 of your request, the Ministry has identified submissions received in response to the public consultation document 'Reducing the Impact of Plastics on our Environment', which are available on the Ministry's website here: <https://consult.environment.govt.nz/waste/plastics/>. Therefore, I am refusing this point of your request under section 18(d) of the Act, as the information requested is publicly available.

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 Shaun Lewis on 20/03/2024

Shaun Lewis
General Manager – Waste Systems
Ministry for the Environment | Manatū Mō Te Taiao