



27 March 2024

OIAD-980

9(2)a

Tēnā koe 9(2)a,

Thank you for your email of 28 February 2024 to the Ministry for the Environment (the Ministry) requesting the following under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

*Can I request the messages sent to Chris Bishop which are marked as 'out of scope' in the document attached? In addition, can you please send me any text messages sent and received between James Palmer and Chris Bishop for the period 24 January 2024 to 28 February 2024?*

I am releasing the text messages sent to Minister Chris Bishop from the Ministry's Chief Executive James Palmer in full, as per the attached document schedule. Some information has been redacted as out of scope of your request.

I am withholding text messages sent between Minister Bishop and James Palmer between 24 January and 28 February 2024 under the following sections of the Act:

- 9(2)(g)(i) - to maintain the effective conduct of public affairs through the free and frank expression of opinions by or between or to Ministers of the Crown or members of an organisation or officers and employees of any public service agency or organisation in the course of their duty; and
- 9(2)(f)(iv) - 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 decisions 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](http://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](mailto:ministerials@mfe.govt.nz).

Nāku noa, nā,

**Danielle Ryan**  
Manager – Ministerial Services  
Ministry for the Environment | Manatū Mō Te Taiao

### Document schedule

Doc no.	Document date	Content	Decisions	OIA sections applied
1	11 January 2024	Text message exchange between Minister Bishop and James Palmer from 1 January 2024	Released in full	N/A
2	29 January 2024	Text message exchange between Minister Bishop and James Palmer between 24 January and 28 February 2024	Withheld in full	9(2)(g)(i); 9(2)(f)(iv)