



7 May 2024

OIAD-992

9(2)a

Tēnā koe 9(2)a

Thank you for your email of 7 March 2024 requesting 29 briefings as noted in the reply to Written Parliamentary Question 1166 (2024) under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act).

The briefings you have requested are outlined in the below document table, along with my decision on the release of 26 of them.

My decision on the release of the remaining three briefings will be provided to you in a second tranche, as they are subject to ongoing consultations with several parties, including the Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment, Cabinet Office, numerous organisations, and multiple Ministers.

Based on the estimated time it will take to complete consultation with these parties, you can expect to receive the second tranche of my response on or before **7 June 2024**. I apologise for any inconvenience that this delay has caused you. Please be assured that we are working to provide you with a full response as soon as we can.

In tranche one of my response, I am releasing 15 documents to you in full. five documents, and some information within six other documents, have been refused or withheld under the following sections of the Act:

18(d)	as the information requested is or will soon be publicly available.
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.
9(2)(h)	to maintain legal professional privilege.

In terms of section 9(1) of the Act, I am satisfied that, in the circumstances, the withholding of information under section 9 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 refuse and 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: 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.

Nāku noa, nā

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

Document Table

Doc no.	Date	Title	Decision on release	OIA sections applied
1.	6/12/2023	BRF-3991: Secondary Briefing to the Incoming Minister: Built Environment	Release in full	
2.	8/12/2023	BRF-4013: Talking points for Cabinet discussion replacing the National Policy Statement for Freshwater 2020	Release in full	
3.	13/12/2023	BRF-3996: Freshwater litigation update	Release in part	9(2)(h)
4.	14/12/2023	BRF-3973: Secondary Briefing: Land Use, Freshwater, and the Marine Environment	Release in full	
5.	14/12/2023	BRF-3970: 100-day commitment: Approach to ceasing implementation of new Significant Natural Areas	Release in full	
6.	14/12/2023	BRF-3969: Initial briefing: National Policy Statement for Highly Productive Land 2022 (NPS-HPL) and next steps.	Release in full	
7.	14/12/2023	BRF-4003: Confirming the scope and working arrangements of the RMA Reform portfolio	Release in full	
8.	19/12/2023	BRF-4045: Briefing on the Ministry's Outcome and Evidence Work Programme	Release in full	
9.	21/12/2023	BRF-4046: The Environmental Protection Authority's Quarter One 2023/24 Performance Report	Release in part	18(d)
10.	18/01/2024	BRF-4074: Progressing Amendments to the Environmental Reporting Act	Release in full	
11.	19/01/2024	BRF-4107: Draft priorities letter and targets	Release in part	9(2)(f)(iv)
12.	25/01/2024	BRF-4061: Information to support your meeting with Otago Regional Council on freshwater planning	Release in part	9(2)(h)
13.	26/01/2024	BRF-4135: Example Freshwater Farm Plan	Release in part	9(2)(f)(iv)
14.	29/01/2024	BRF-4113: RMA Ministerial Statutory Functions relating to Urban and Infrastructure	Release in full	
15.	31/01/2024	BRF-4146: Meeting with Dairy NZ	Release in full	
16.	31/01/2024	BRF-4066: 100-day plan: Ceasing new Significant Natural Areas and review of their operation	Release in part	9(2)(h)
17.	2/02/2024	BRF-4162: Overview of key Environment Non-Government Organisations	Release in full	
18.	5/02/2024	BRF-4181: Notes for your meeting on Thursday 8 February 2024 with the Chairman of EDS	Release in full	

Doc no.	Date	Title	Decision on release	OIA sections applied
19.	8/02/2024	BRF-4202: Additional information on freshwater farm plans	Release in full	
20.	9/02/2024	BRF-4183: Meeting with the Environmental Protection Authority 12 February 2024	Release in full	
21.	15/02/2024	BRF-4229: Exceptional Circumstances Application by Environment Southland for Breach of Air Quality Standards	Release in part	9(2)(h)
22.	14/02/2024	BRF-4115: Fast-track consenting delegated decisions - Ministerial referral and eligibility	Refused in full	18(d)
23.	14/02/2024	BRF-4203: MBIE-2324-2098: Fast Track Consenting Bill - Policy Decisions Tranche 2A	Refused in full	18(d)
24.	19/01/2024	BRF-4041: Application of the hierarchy of obligations within Te Mana o Te Wai to resource consenting	Withhold in full	9(2)(f)(iv)
25.	9/02/2024	BRF-4147: 2024 Environment Legislation Programme Bid – Environmental Reporting Amendment Bill	Withhold in full	9(2)(h)
26.	21/02/2024	BRF-4160: Natural Resources Cluster December 2023 Report	Withhold in full	9(2)(f)(iv)
Documents being considered for release as tranche two				
27.	19/12/2023	BRF-4044: Advice to support the Ministers discussion with the Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment	TBA	
28.	26/01/2024	BRF-4145: Driving Effective Investment in Environmental Data Flagship Performance Measure	TBA	
29.	12/02/2024	BRF-4235: Further information on the proposals for the Environmental Reporting Bill	TBA	