



18 April 2024

OIAD-996

9(2)a

Tēnā koe 9(2)a ,

Thank you for your email of 8 March 2024 to the Ministry for the Environment (the Ministry) requesting the following under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

Firstly, under the Official Information Act can I please request any information MFE holds regarding potential new regulations for the waste sector, including licencing for exporters as referenced here <https://www.nzherald.co.nz/nz/politics/petition-for-new-zealand-to-ban-plastic-waste-exports-to-developing-countries-slated-as-waste-colonialism-as-government-says-it-doesnt-monitor-if-recycled-or-becomes-pollution/Y45SOSPOP5FYXH4A6PJLKXWZLQ/>.

Secondly, can I please request any information MFE holds relating to concerns about recycling exporters. For both of the above the timeframe can be from the start of 2023 onwards. Generic email correspondence between MFE staff and media requests can be ignored.

On 19 March 2024, the Ministry sought clarification of your request. Specifically, the Ministry asked for clarification on what was meant by “concerns about recycling exporters” and what regulations the request covered e.g., whether this related to exports, recycling, waste tracking etc. You confirmed that you wanted information regarding concerns about the companies that export recycling: “Either how they go about it, the transparency of the companies, what happens to the recycling once it leaves NZ etc.”

Regarding the first part of your request, proactively released Cabinet Papers that were released under the previous Government and have information about new regulations and licencing for the waste sector are publicly available here: [Cabinet papers seeking policy decisions on the content of new waste legislation | Ministry for the Environment](#). I must therefore refuse this part of your request under section 18(d) of the Act as the information requested is publicly available.

In response to the second part of your request, the Ministry does not hold information about specific exporters or companies that export recycling. I must therefore refuse this part of your request under section 18(g) of the Act, as the Ministry does not hold the requested information and I have no reason to believe it is either held by or more closely connected with the functions of another agency.

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.

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.

Nāku noa, nā,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'ME', written in a cursive style.

Monique Esplin
Manager – Waste Strategy and Legislation
Ministry for the Environment | Manatū Mō Te Taiao