



8 April 2024

OIAD-998

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):

- *Details of all permits requested for exporting of hard to recycle plastic waste since 2021.*
- *Any information MFE holds regarding the effectiveness of the above legislation (requiring the permits)*

On 14 March 2024, the Ministry advised that we had transferred the part of your request for “details of all permits requested for exporting of hard to recycle plastic waste since 2021” to the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) under section 14 of the Act, as this information was believed to be more closely connected with their functions.

As you may be aware, the EPA and New Zealand Customs Service manage and administer the export/import process under the Imports & Exports (Restrictions) Act 1998 and the Imports and Exports (Restrictions) Prohibition Order (No 2) 2004. Permits are issued by the EPA under prior informed consent for exporting material overseas for recycling, as part of our obligations under the Basel Convention. More information is available here: [Basel Convention | Ministry for the Environment](#).

The Ministry does not hold any information regarding the effectiveness of exporting hard to recycle plastic waste legislation since 2021. I must therefore refuse your request under section 18(g) of the Act, as the Ministry does not hold the information requested and I have no grounds to believe the information is either held by another department or connected more closely with their functions.

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: [Ombudsman New Zealand | Tari o te Kaitiaki Mana Tangata](#).

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,

Monique Esplin

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