

19-D-02218

Chris Johnston
fyi-request-11321-22febe2f@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Chris

Thank you for your email of 30 September 2019 requesting the following under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

'Please provide any records (including but not limited to internal/external: documents, emails, notes, minutes, text messages, or social media messages) mentioning climate activist Greta Thunberg or either of her parents, (Malena Ernman, Svante Thunberg). I do not need copies of public news articles held.'

The Ministry for the Environment has identified a large number of emails; seven letters to Minister Shaw; and a briefing note to Prime Minister Ardern that fall within the scope of your request. There were also several submissions from members of the public on the Climate Change Response Act (Zero Carbon) Amendment Bill and the Action on Agricultural Emissions consultations. These are listed in the attached table.

Here's how we are providing this information to you:

1. Briefing and emails. Most of the content in these documents was not about Greta. So we have collated relevant extracts from the emails and briefing where Greta is mentioned into a single document. This will improve the readability of our response to you. Otherwise we would need to provide you originals with heavy redactions to remove out-of-scope material. We have redacted names and contact details from this information under the following section of the OIA:

s9(2)(a) to protect the privacy of natural persons.

2. Ministerial correspondence (letters from members of the public to the Minister). We are providing you with these letters. We have redacted names and contact details from this information under the following section of the OIA:

s9(2)(a) to protect the privacy of natural persons.

3. Submissions from members of the public. We are not providing these to you directly under the following grounds of the OIA:

s18(d): the information requested is or will soon be publicly available

Please see <https://www.mfe.govt.nz/more/zero-carbon-bill-submissions-received> for Zero Carbon Bill submissions and <https://www.mfe.govt.nz/consultation/action-agricultural-emissions> for agricultural emissions submissions.

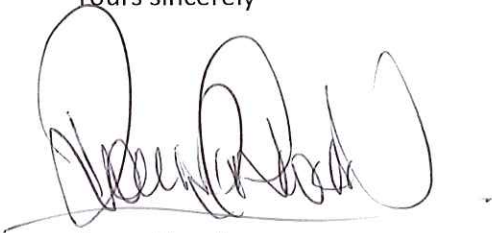
In terms of section 9(1) of the Act, I am satisfied that, in the circumstances, the withholding of this information is not outweighed by other considerations that render it desirable to make the information available in the public interest.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Office of the Ombudsman of my decision to 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: www.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 website 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 Executive Relations team.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Roger Lincoln', written over a horizontal line.

Roger Lincoln
Director, Climate Change

List of documents

| Document no. | Document date | Content | Decisions | OIA sections applied |
|--------------|------------------|---|--------------------------------|----------------------|
| 1 | 6 March 2019 | Ministerial letter: A Carbon Budget for New Zealand- Climate Change, Species Extinction, and Eco-Economics | Release in part | s9(2)(a) |
| 2 | 18 March 2019 | Ministerial letter: Watch - Teen activist on climate change: If we don't do anything right now, we're screwed | Release in part | s9(2)(a) |
| 3 | 9 April 2019 | Ministerial letter: Declaration of a Climate Emergency | Release in part | s9(2)(a) |
| 4 | 3 May 2019 | Ministerial letter: Don't let one gunman shut down our children's voices | Release in part | s9(2)(a) |
| 5 | 22 August 2019 | Ministerial letter: Now It's The EIB | Release in part | s9(2)(a) |
| 6 | 23 August 2019 | Ministerial letter: Watch "Greta Thunberg: "We want politicians to listen to the scientists"" on YouTube | Release in part | s9(2)(a) |
| 7 | 5 September 2019 | Ministerial letter: Climate Change | Release in part | s9(2)(a) |
| 8 | Various | Extract document: Briefing note and Various emails from internal and external individuals | Release relevant extracts only | s9(2)(a) |
| 9 | Various | Submissions on Zero Carbon Bill and agricultural emissions consultations | Withhold | s18(d) |