

19-D-02214  
19-D-02216  
19-D-02217

Chris Johnston  
[fyi-request-11318-98c5562b@requests.fyi.org.nz](mailto:fyi-request-11318-98c5562b@requests.fyi.org.nz)

Dear Chris

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

- *Dear Ministry for the Environment, Please provide any records (e.g. documents, emails, notes or minutes) mentioning scientists Ned Nikolov and/or Kari Zeller and/or Dr Roy Spencer as mentioned in the link below. For context - so that you can correctly identify the individuals - some links relevant to their work are mentioned in the links below. 1) 2017 Peer Reviewed and Published Paper Describing How Earth's Long Term Average Temperature can be estimated from NASA data on other planets without referencing the composition of Earth's atmosphere. That is, the finding is that CO2 does not have an impact on the long term average temperature of Earth. <https://www.omicsonline.org/open-access/New-Insights-on-the-Physical-Nature-of-the-Atmospheric-Greenhouse-Effect-Deduced-from-an-Empirical-Planetary-Temperature-Model.pdf> 2) Blog reply by Ned Nikolov in response to a critique by Dr Roy Spencer <https://tallbloke.wordpress.com/2019/01/17/nikolov-zeller-reply-to-dr-roy-spencers-blog-article/>*
- *Dear Ministry for the Environment, Please provide any records (including but not limited to internal/external: documents, emails, notes, minutes, text messages, or social media messages) mentioning scientists Dr Ronan Connolly and/or Michael Connolly and/or Christopher Monckton. For context - so that you can correctly identify the individuals - some links relevant to their work are mentioned in the links below. 1) This is the presentation of their findings that Earth's atmosphere is in thermo-dynamic equilibrium (directly opposite to a key IPCC assumption), and therefore CO2 cannot have any significant effect on the temperature of Earth's atmosphere. <https://youtu.be/XfRBr7PEawY> or <https://t.co/FolJ8vWmGL?amp=1> 2) This is the Connolly's blog site where they publish their results: <https://globalwarmingsolved.com/> 3) This is where their empirical discovery is talked about by Christopher Monckton as a potential Nobel Prize winning paper (once published). [https://www.youtube.com/watch?time\\_continue=1103&v=k6iOOuZCE\\_Y](https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=1103&v=k6iOOuZCE_Y) or <https://t.co/qPBhw9Gold?amp=1>.*
- *Dear Ministry for the Environment, Please provide any records (including but not limited to internal/external: documents, emails, notes, minutes, text messages, or social media messages) mentioning scientist Patrick Frank. For context - so that you can correctly identify the individual - some links relevant to his work are mentioned in the links below. 1) This is the peer reviewed paper (published on 6 September 2019) which finds that the statistical techniques used for forecasting global surface air temperature have not used an appropriate error propagation technique - and are*

*therefore unreliable forecasts for the IPCC or governments to be using for policy decisions.*  
<https://www.frontiersin.org/articles/10.3389/feart.2019.00223/full> or  
<https://t.co/tdnQhizDCS?amp=1> 2) This is Patrick Frank's blog about his paper when it was published - which was rather scathing and impolite.  
<https://wattsupwiththat.com/2019/09/07/propagation-of-error-and-the-reliability-of-global-air-temperature-projections-mark-ii/> or <https://t.co/VxX54HJh7f?amp=1>

Given the similarity between the requests, we have combined your three requests into one.

The Ministry for the Environment has identified 17 documents in scope of your request, as listed in the attached table. Some information within these documents has been withheld under the following sections of the Act:

- 9(2)(a) to protect information the privacy of natural persons
- 18(d) the documents are publicly available

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.

Some out of scope information has also been removed from the documents being released to you.

We are withholding submissions to the Climate Change Response (Zero Carbon) Amendment Bill under Section 18(d) of the Act as this information is already publically available. Please see links to this information below:

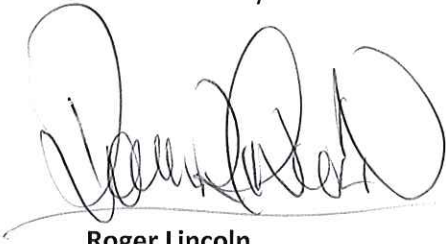
- submissions on the Ministry for the Environment's consultation on the Zero Carbon Bill at <https://www.mfe.govt.nz/more/zero-carbon-bill-submissions-received>
- submissions on the Environment Select Committee's consultation on the Zero Carbon Bill here: [https://www.parliament.nz/en/pb/bills-and-laws/bills-proposed-laws/document/BILL\\_87861/tab/submissionsandadvice](https://www.parliament.nz/en/pb/bills-and-laws/bills-proposed-laws/document/BILL_87861/tab/submissionsandadvice)

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](http://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 in a cursive style.

**Roger Lincoln**  
Director, Climate Change

### List of documents

Document no.	Document date	Content	Decisions	OIA sections applied
1	10 January 2007	Response to Ministerial correspondence	Release in part	S9(2)(a)
2	10 April 2008	Emails: CC hotspots vs. observations	Release in part	S9(2)(a)
3	1 July 2010	Emails: Mediaportal broadcast summary	Release in part	S9(2)(a)
4	1 August 2011	Ministerial correspondence	Release in part	S9(2)(a)
5	3 August 2011	Email: something on Spencer	Release in part	S9(2)(a)
6	26 February 2013	Email: oh noes! Climate skeptic Monckton	Release in part	S9(2)(a)
7	2 April 2013	Status Report: Minister for Climate Change Issues – this document links to document #8 in this table.	Release in part	S9(2)(a)
8	3 April 2013	Emails: CC Status Report item on Monckton	Release in part	S9(2)(a)
9	19 April 2013	Email: climate skeptic tour	Release in full	
10	20 May 2013	Email: Briefing notes on Developments in Climate Change Science	Release in full	
11	20 August 2013	Response to Ministerial correspondence	Release in part	S9(2)(a)
12	1 August 2016	Ministerial correspondence	Release in part	S9(2)(a)
13	8 August 2016	Ministerial correspondence: links with email "FINDING TRUE TEMPERATURE"	Release in part	S9(2)(a)

14	6 June 2017	Ministerial correspondence	Release in part	S9(2)(a)
15	11 September 2017	Ministerial correspondence	Release in part	S9(2)(a)
16	17 October 2019	Weekly Update report: Minister for Climate Change	Release in part	S9(2)(a)
17	Multiple	Submissions on Zero Carbon Bill	Withhold	S18(d)

