



3 December 2019

Chris Johnston

By email: fyi-request-11356-60ae4bc0@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Chris

Official information requests for emails searches related to scientists

I refer to your request for information under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) dated 30 October 2019:

"I need a count from the email system (which VUW have shown that they can search) a completed table with the following counts:

- a) 5 Column Headers - each with the names of the authors mentioned in this OIA as follows: Dr Connolly, Ronan Connolly, Michael Connolly, Christopher Monckton, Monckton*
- b) 10 Row headers - please search and count in the email system for the following combinations of keywords in addition to the author's name. So for example where "Climate" is the keyword then the search would be for: Climate + "Dr Connolly". The keyword list that would initially be useful is: Climate, Radiosonde, Global Warming, CO2, IPCC, Troposphere, Thermodynamic, Equilibrium, Greenhouse, Zero Carbon"*

As mentioned in our email to you on 13 November 2019, the University has completed work to establish the extent of documentation captured by all of your requested searches. In undertaking this assessment, the University ran a subset of the searches you requested to ascertain the time it would take to complete each search. The subset was in relation to two of the author names you provided ("Dr Connolly" and "Ronan Connolly") and all of the keywords you provided. The results of this subset are as follows.

	Dr Connolly	Ronan Connolly
Climate	475	75
Radiosonde	8	9
Global Warming	327	10
CO2	186	31
IPCC	57	30
Troposphere	8	11
Thermodynamic	19	11
Equilibrium	61	32
Greenhouse	70	12
Zero Carbon	122	41

It took approximately 6.5 hours of dedicated time for a senior ITS staff member to complete these 20 searches. As you can see, this yielded 1,595 results.

Given the amount of resource required to process these searches, we have decided to charge for executing the remaining searches, that is the remaining 3 authors against the 10 keywords – a total of 30 searches. Based on the subset search that was undertaken, each search took approximately 20 minutes to complete, and therefore the University estimates it would take approximately 10 hours of dedicated work to complete the remaining 30 searches. Following the Ombudsman’s charging guidelines, we estimate that the maximum charge will be \$684.00. Any unused component of this charge will be refunded to you.

Before we proceed further with your request, please confirm your agreement to the charge and pay the full amount. The payment can be deposited in to the following account with reference ‘Chris Johnston – Connolly and Monckton OIA request’:

ANZ Bank New Zealand Limited
Account number: 06-0606-0100241-00
Victoria University of Wellington

Please note that if you pay the charge an email must be sent to oiarequests@vuw.ac.nz confirming the time and date on which the payment was made. We will send you the information within 20 working days of your payment.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of the University’s decision to charge. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or freephone 0800 802 602.

You also asked the University to “point to other OIAs where the same chain logic has been used to decline OIA requests”. The University individually assesses each OIA request received and makes a decision on any applicable withholding grounds at the time in the context of each specific request, and in accordance with the provisions of the Act.

Regarding the response to your 2 October 2019 request for email searches, the University would like to make an amendment to our statements around search capability. We stated that the searches we completed were solely related to the University’s email system. This is incorrect. This search covered various Office365 systems including Outlook, Microsoft Teams, SharePoint sites, and OneDrive accounts.

Yours sincerely



Georgia Tawharu
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