



24 September 2020

T. L. Battle

By email: fyi-request-13525-423dd59f@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Mr Battle,

I am writing in regard to your official information request dated 15 August 2020 seeking information related to the Uniflats and the Sustainability Neighbourhood, emissions assessments and carbon reduction, and the School Strike for Climate protests in 2019. As per my communication of 11 September 2020, an extension of the timeframe to respond to this request was advised on 1 October 2020.

Having assessed your request, it is formally refused pursuant to section 18(f) of the Official Information Act, on the grounds that to fully respond both to the overall request, or to its individual components, would require extensive and impracticable collation and research. I note your right to seek a review of this decision via complaint to an Ombudsman.

Despite this, in scoping your request we have been able to identify relevant information which may be of assistance to you, which I provide below. I also note that this may allow you to subsequently make more focused requests on any of these topics, which we may be able to respond to more positively.

Sustainability neighbourhood

Having liaised with relevant staff, the University does not expect to hold any documentation relating to other options for a sustainability neighbourhood, or consideration of rent subsidies or minimum work hours. None of these things were formally considered. This is a scheme that has volunteering at the heart of its ethos and seeks to attract students committed to this initiative for its own sake.

Similarly, the University has not planned nor carried out formal analysis of how the scheme would affect the wellbeing of current residents in the area designated for the sustainability neighbourhood.

Emissions assessment and carbon reduction plan

The University is due to publically release its Greenhouse Inventory shortly, which will provide a summary of the work the University of Otago is undertaking in the measurement of emissions. If you would like a copy of this document once it is ready, please do not hesitate to contact [Sustainability at Otago](mailto:sustainability@otago.ac.nz) at sustainability@otago.ac.nz.

Regarding the University's plans to reduce its carbon footprint, a Carbon Zero programme is up to business case development stage and will progress in 2021. Currently there is no formal proposal which could be considered for release.

School Strike for Climate Protest in 2019

As advised above, a search for all documentation requested on this matter across the University is impracticable. However, I have sought documentation relating to (i) your particular interest in advice *against* supporting the Climate Strike, and (ii) analysis of risks from supporting the Climate Strike. For this, I have focused on the Vice-Chancellor and the Vice-Chancellor's Advisory Group which comprises the University's senior leadership team. Having done so, I can confirm I have identified no correspondence or documentation held by this group recommending against supporting the Climate Strike, nor any analysis of risks from supporting the Strike.

I trust this information is helpful. Should you have further requests on specific aspects of these matters, please feel free to email registrar@otago.ac.nz

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Claire Gallop', with a large, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

Claire Gallop
Manager, Policy and Compliance, Office of the Registrar