



Ref. No. DOIA 2122-0637

Ed Grove

[fyi-request-16761-e0918e1b@requests.fyi.org.nz](mailto:fyi-request-16761-e0918e1b@requests.fyi.org.nz)

Dear Ed

Thank you for your email of 15 September 2021 requesting the following under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

*(a) any preliminary research and/or field observations of wall and cavity relative humidity levels, mould growth, decay, corrosion levels/rates, creep and distortion, within inter wall and/or inter-cavity area;*

*(b) any records of the investigations/progress to date with attempting to refine the current modelling to the point that it can explain and/or predict the relative humidity levels that have been observed in Branz's real-world testing;*

*(c) any risk analysis or briefing documents or other communications prepared and/or sent to the Minister of Housing (or any Ministers) or industry participants, in relation to the potential for the aforementioned issues to result in building failures including a failure to meet the current building code.*

As expressed in the rescope email sent to you on 27 September 2021, the Ministry of Business, Innovation & Employment (MBIE) would like to clarify once more that the Research Project Brief described in your request "Research to support Code clauses H1, E3 and G4" was not approved by the project sponsor and therefore MBIE did not co-fund this research.

As we did not hear back from you in regards of refining the scope of your request, this letter is to notify you that the MBIE is refusing parts of your request under section 18(f) of the Act, as the information requested cannot be made available without substantial collation or research.

Three documents have been identified in the broad scope of your request, as detailed in the attached document schedule. Some information within these documents has been excluded as out of scope, or withheld under the following sections of the Act:

9(2)(a) to protect the privacy of natural persons, including that of deceased natural persons.

9(2)(b)(ii) to protect information where the making available of the information would likely unreasonably to prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied or who is the subject of the information

We have also included the documents below which are publicly available which falls in scope of your request and may be of interest to you. These can be accessed via the links below:

**Consultation Document – Building Code update 2021**

[www.mbie.govt.nz/dmsdocument/13808-consultation-document-building-code-update-2021](http://www.mbie.govt.nz/dmsdocument/13808-consultation-document-building-code-update-2021)

**Determination 2015-057: Regarding the refusal to issue a building consent for Stage One of remediation to an apartment complex**

[www.building.govt.nz/assets/Uploads/resolving-problems/determinations/2015/2015-057.pdf](http://www.building.govt.nz/assets/Uploads/resolving-problems/determinations/2015/2015-057.pdf)

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 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 at: [www.ombudsman.parliament.nz](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz).

Yours sincerely



Jenni Tipler

**Manager Building Performance and Engineering**

Building System Performance

## Document schedule

### Documents released

#	Date	Description	Information withheld under
1	1 June 2021	Email – RE: MBIE Airtightness, ventilation and moisture workshop placeholder	Section 9(2)(a)
2	1 June 2021	Document - BRANZ – MBIE workshop on airtightness, ventilation etc.	Section 9(2)(a)
3	N/A	PowerPoint Presentation – MBIE-BRANZ Workshop	Section 9(2)(b)(ii)