

Hon James Shaw

Minister of Climate Change
Associate Minister for the Environment (Biodiversity)



29 November 2021

OIA439

Matthew Hooton
fyi-request-16783-2b7c8325@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Matthew,

Thank you for your email of 20 October 2021 in which you request the following under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA):

All Cabinet and Cabinet Committee papers and minutes since the 2017 change of Government to today's date that consider the likely effects of New Zealand's climate change policies on the climate change policies of other countries, especially the top 20 global emitters; and what consideration the Cabinet has given to this matter when forming, reviewing and setting New Zealand's climate change policies and negotiation positions for international conferences and other climate change diplomacy.

Attached are the documents relevant to your request. Some portions of the documents are withheld under the following sections of the OIA:

- 6(a): to avoid prejudicing the security or defence of New Zealand or the international relations of the New Zealand Government;
- 6(b)(i): to protect the passing of information from another government on a confidential basis;
- 9(2)(a): to protect individuals' privacy;
- 9(2)(f)(iv): to protect the confidentiality of advice tendered by Ministers of the Crown and officials;
- 9(2)(g)(i): to protect the free and frank expression of opinions by departments; and
- 9(2)(j): to avoid prejudice to negotiations.

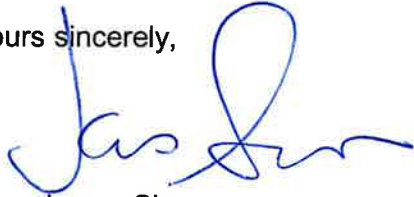
Where the information has been withheld under section 9 of the OIA, no public interest in releasing the information has been identified that would override the reasons for withholding it.

One document relevant to your request has been proactively released, and can be found at the following link: <https://www.mfat.govt.nz/assets/Environment/Climate-change/FINAL-proactive-climate-change-mandate-for-release.pdf>

On 29 October my office wrote to you extending the deadline for the response to your query. In your email of 1 November, you asked for the reason for the extension. Thank you for your patience as my office completed the additional consultations necessary to make a decision on your request for information. The consultations that took place were between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, and other ministerial offices to ensure parties were aware information was being released, and to ensure any information that requires protection in the public interest is withheld appropriately. Based on the size of your request for information, and other commitments (such as COP 26) an extension was required to provide adequate time for these consultations.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this decision by contacting www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or freephone 0800 802 602.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'James Shaw', with a large loop at the top.

Hon. James Shaw
Minister of Climate Change