



Ref. No. DOIA 2122-1104

28 January 2022

Alex Harris

fyi-request-17547-1da68ea4@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Alex Harris

Thank you for your email of 12 November 2021 to the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (the Ministry), requesting following information under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

Last night at the climate talks in Glasgow the New Zealand government joined an international alliance to end fossil fuels ("COP26: New alliance commits to setting end date for oil and gas extraction", RNZ, 12 November 2021). I would like to request the following information under the OIA:

** all advice and communications on plans to set an end date for oil and gas exploration and extraction.*

On 23 November 2021, the Ministry clarified that you were specifically interested about the end date for oil and gas exploration and extraction in relation to the COP26.

The timeframe for responding to your request under section 15A(1)(b) of the Act was extended until 28 January 2021.

Two documents and one email pack have been identified in scope of your request. One document and the email pack have been released to you, with some information withheld under the following sections of the Act, as detailed in the below Document Schedule:

- | | |
|-------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 6(a) | to prejudice the security or defence of New Zealand or the international relations of the Government of New Zealand; |
| 9(2)(a) | to protect the privacy of natural persons; |
| 9(2)(f)(iv) | to maintain the constitutional conventions for the time being which protect the confidentiality of advice tendered by Ministers of the Crown and officials;
and |
| 9(2)(g)(i) | to maintain the effective conduct of public affairs through the free and frank expression of opinions by or between or to Ministers of the Crown or members of an organisation or officers and employees of any public service agency or organisation in the course of their duty. |

One document in scope of your request, entitled *Agreement to Join Beyond Oil and Gas Alliance* has been refused under section 18(d) of the Act, as it is now publicly available. This can be found here: <https://www.mfat.govt.nz/assets/OIA/OIA-2020-21/Proactive-Release-Commitments-made-at-COP26.pdf>

Document Schedule

Document title	Withholding grounds used
Agreement to Join Beyond Oil and Gas Alliance	Refused under 18(d)
Beyond Oil and Gas Alliance – background note	6(a), 9(2)(f)(iv), 9(2)(g)(i)
Email pack	9(2)(a)

In terms of section 9 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 the Ministry's response to your request, in accordance with section 28(3) of the Act. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or freephone 0800 802 602.

Yours sincerely



Lena MacCarthy
Acting Manager, Resource Markets Policy
Building, Resources and Markets, MBIE