

Official Information Act Request

Requester's details

Date: 1 May 2023

Name: John

Email: fyi-request-21979-3e985f84@requests.fyi.org.nz

Reference number: ENQ-45709-N3L6C4

Dear John

I refer to your request, which was initially received on 22 March 2023, then clarified on 30 March 2023, for:

"... all materials related to how and why the Board of EPA decided to hold Board meetings jointly with Ngā Kaihautū Tikanga Taiao (NKT) including but not limited to:

1. All documents and communications about the proposal and decision to hold joint meetings of the Board and NKT
2. Details of when the first joint Board and NKT meeting was held
3. All communications between the past and present Chair of the Board and the responsible minister regarding joint Board and NKT meetings
4. Any advice and opinions the Board received on if the members of NKT could be deemed / defacto directors of EPA as a result of participating in joint board and NKT meetings."

The information you have requested is attached. Some of the information you have requested has been redacted under section 9(2)(a) of the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA), to protect the privacy of natural persons. Some information has also been redacted under section 9(2)(g)(i) of the OIA, 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.

A fundamental principle of the OIA is that information should be released, unless there is good reason to withhold it. We consider there is good reason to withhold some information for the reasons outlined above, and there are no reasons why it would be in the public interest to release it instead.

I hope this information is helpful. You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this decision.

You can contact the Ombudsman on 0800 802 602, or by email at info@ombudsman.parliament.nz.

If you have any further queries, please do not hesitate to contact us via ministerials@epa.govt.nz.

We may publish your request and our response on our website, www.epa.govt.nz. We make OIA responses available so others can read more about the work we do and the questions we are asked. Any information that might identify you will be removed to protect your privacy.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Paula Knaap', with a large, stylized flourish extending to the right.

Paula Knaap
General Manager, Engagement