

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Office of the Ombudsman of my decision to withhold information relating to this request, in accordance with section 28(3) of the OIA. The relevant details can be found on their website at: [www.ombudsman.parliament.nz](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz).

Please contact my office if you have any queries about this response.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'David Parker', with a large, stylized flourish at the end.

Hon David Parker  
**Minister for the Environment**

**Hon David Parker** BCom, LLB

Attorney-General  
Minister for the Environment  
Minister of Revenue  
Associate Minister of Finance



3 May 2023

OIA 1188-23

Harris Leigh  
fyi-request-22357-39946a99@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Harris Leigh

Thank you for your emails of 3 April 2023 requesting the following under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA):

- 1) any information you hold relating to your decision not to ensure EPA staff were aware of your decision under section 36 of the Crown Entities Act before it became public;*
- 2) any information you hold relating to your decision not to seek advice from the Public Service Association on how to ensure the wellbeing of EPA staff through this transition;*
- 3) any information you hold relating to your decision not seek advice from the PSC on how to manage the impact of your decision on EPA staff;*

and

*copies of all documentation held by yourself and your office, including held by your ministerial advisers and press secretary, relating to this request [of March 2] and your decision not to comply with the law with respect to it.*

Your first request is similar to your request of 2 March 2023 that was responded to on 3 April 2023. Your request is declined under section 18(e) of the Act, as the information does not exist. I note that when removing a member of a Crown agent under the Crown Entities Act the responsible Minister is required to simultaneously notify the entity involved. In this case, the entity was the Board of the Environment Protection Authority (EPA), not the EPA itself.

The Chief Executive of the EPA is responsible for the wellbeing of EPA staff. I am advised the EPA responded to your Official Information Act request on this topic on 16 March 2023.

Your second request for information "relating to this request and your decision not to comply with the law with respect to it" is declined under section 18(e) of the Act as the information does not exist.