



25 May 2023

James
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Tēnā koe James

Your request for information, reference OIA 2223-0793

Thank you for your email of 14 April 2023 to Hon Kieran McNulty. On 27 April 2023 the Department of Internal Affairs (the Department) received a part of your request as a transfer from the Office of Hon Kieran McNulty. You requested the following information under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

“On the 13th of April the government relaunched its Three Waters policy as affordable water reforms at a press conference fronted by PM Hipkins and yourself. It was announced to media present, that the “numbers of the scheme had been peer reviewed twice.

Under the OIA please provide the dates the numbers were reviewed and who they were reviewed by?”

The Department has made the decision to refuse your request in accordance with s18(d) of the Act, as *the information requested is or will soon be publicly available*. The Department is currently working through the process necessary to publish information relating to the announced changes to our website as there is a high degree of public interest.

Once we have published the information to our website, you will be notified and provided with a link to the location of the information. You may choose to make a further request once you have reviewed the publicly released information.

In the meantime, you may wish to view the previous modelling and reports, including the peer reviews by Farriersweir Consulting and Becca which helped inform the refined modelling for the 10 Water Services Entities. This information is on our website, as part of the National Evidence Base, located here:

- www.dia.govt.nz/three-waters-reform-programme-national-evidence-base

Information used in the development of the original modelling was in part from the Department’s Request for Information (Rfi) process. Further information regarding Rfi can also be found on our website here:

- www.dia.govt.nz/Archived-Three-Waters-Reform-Programme-information#RFI

In relation to the future publication of the information refused above, certain information will be withheld under the principles of one or more of the following sections of the Act:

- 9(2)(a) to *protect the privacy of natural persons*;
- 9(2)(b)(ii) because it *would be likely unreasonably to prejudice the commercial position of... the subject of the information*;
- 9(2)(ba), to *protect information which is subject to an obligation of confidence...where the making available of the information (i) would be likely to prejudice the supply of similar information*, and
- 9(2)(ba)(ii) *would be likely otherwise to damage the public interest*; and
- s9(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*. Certain decisions are still under consideration by the Minister.
- 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*
- 9(2)(j) to *enable a Minister of the Crown or any public service agency or organisation holding the information to carry on, without prejudice or disadvantage, negotiations (including commercial and industrial negotiations)*.

You have the right, under section 28(3) of the Act, to seek an investigation and review of this decision by the Office of the Ombudsman. The postal address of the Office of the Ombudsman is PO Box 10152, Wellington. Alternatively, you can phone 0800 802 602 or email info@ombudsman.parliament.nz.

Nāku noa, nā



Rashad Saeedi
Manager, Ministerial Services
Water Services Reform Programme