



Debbie Leota
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Tēnā koe Debbie

Thank you for your email of 18 May 2023 to the Ministry for the Environment (the Ministry) requesting the following under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

I'd like to ask for the following information (whether contained in documents, emails, reports, or a summary or extract):

- 1. Please provide the titles of all projects relating to policy reform in the past 2 financial years (i.e. FY21/22 and 22/23) that have had an expert or policy consultant or contractor (i.e. not IT or marketing but involved in core analysis etc).*
- 2. For each project, please list the firm (or trading name) and names of the individual consultants or contractors hired for each project.*
- 3. Please provide a monthly breakdown for the period in question 1 of the spend on those consultants/contractors per individual (if held) or per firm.*
- 4. Please provide a copy of all conflict of interest (actual or perceived) disclosures made by the firm and individuals (whether upon initial hire or made during the term of the contract(s)).*
- 5. Please provide a copy of all information that sets out any conflict of interest mitigations or management plans or protocols used for any conflicts of interests disclosed.*

On 16 June 2023, the Ministry advised you that the timeframe for responding to your request would be extended by 40 working days under section 15A(1)(b) of the Act, as the consultations necessary to make a decision on the request were such that a proper response could not be made within the original timeframe.

On 20 June 2023, you requested that the Ministry respond in parts to your request. The Ministry confirmed that we were working to provide a response to Question One in advance of the other parts of your request. The Ministry has been unable to provide you with a response to Question One ahead of the other information in scope. This was due to the information in scope of Question One being so interconnected with other parts of the request that we could not provide this information at an earlier date. I apologise for the Ministry's inability to release information in a staggered manner.

Questions One and Two

The Ministry has identified 11 titles of projects relating to policy reform of the New Zealand Emissions Trading Scheme (NZ ETS) within the past two financial years. These 11 titles are listed in Appendix 1, attached.

Question Three

Appendix 2, attached, provides a monthly breakdown of the spend on the contracts in scope of this request.

Question Four and Five

All individuals contracted to work on projects in scope of this request have stated there were no conflicts of interest in their entering into these contracts. I must therefore refuse this part of your request under section 18(e) of the Act, as the documents requested do not exist.

I can assure you that the Ministry asks each supplier undertaking contract work with us to declare any conflict of interest in providing goods and/or services or entering into a contract with us. The Ministry informs all suppliers that they must do their best to avoid situations that may lead to conflicts of interest arising. Suppliers must inform the Ministry immediately if any conflicts of interest arise.

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

Please note that, due to the public interest in our work, the Ministry publishes responses to requests for official information on our [OIA responses page](#) shortly after the response has been sent. If you have any queries about this, please feel free to contact our Ministerial Services team: ministerials@mfe.govt.nz.

Ngā mihi



Melody Guy

Director – Markets Climate Group

Ministry for the Environment | Manatū Mō Te Taiao

Appendix 1

No.	Project description	Start date	End date	Firm/trading name	Individual(s) hired
1	Contractor for data and evidence lead NZ ETS review	1/08/2022	16/09/2022	Resource Economics	Tim Denne
2	Geothermal Regulations Update	3/10/2022	30/10/2022	Geokem	Kevin Brown
3	Modelling of ETS impacts on the electricity market	12/04/2022	19/04/2022	Sam Harvey	Sam Harvey
4	NZ ETS Market Governance	1/08/2022	28/08/2023	Strata Energy Consulting Limited	Daniel Tulloch
5	ETS Markets Governance	29/03/2021	26/08/2022	Strata Energy Consulting Limited	Daniel Tulloch, Philip Beardmore, and Ivan Diaz-Rainey
6	Defining problem re forestry in NZ Emissions Trading scheme	18/01/2022	18/02/2022	Resource Economics	Tim Denne
7	Member of IA review TAG	19/04/2021	5/07/2021	Resource Economics	Tim Denne
8	Member of IA review TAG	19/04/2021	5/07/2021	Niven Winchester (trading as an individual)	Niven Winchester
9	Member of IA review TAG	19/04/2021	5/07/2021	Ivan Diaz-Rainey (trading as an individual)	Ivan Diaz-Rainey
10	Member of IA review TAG	19/04/2021	5/07/2021	Firecone Limited	Andrew Sweet
11	Member of Industrial Allocation Review Technical Advisory Group	19/04/2021	5/07/2021	Frazer Lindstrom Limited	Stuart Frazer