

16 November 2023

Chris McCashin
fyi-request-23935-c4f9c009@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Mr McCashin

Thank you for your email dated 18 October 2023 to the Office of the Minister of Workplace Relations and Safety, which was later in part transferred to Kāinga Ora – Homes and Communities, requesting the following information under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

Please provide the most recent report completed by the Government and their individual agencies that have funding in excess of \$20m that report on:

- *How the agency tackles exploitation risks in their operations and supply chains*
- *Specifically looking for supply chains relating to individual agencies and electric cars*
- *Specifically looking for supply chains relating to individual agencies and mobile phones*
- *Specifically looking for supply chains for any products the government buys in bulk that require rare earth minerals mined in third world countries contributing to modern slavery.*

I have consulted with relevant staff and I can confirm that as was noted in Minister Sepuloni's response to you dated 18 October 2023, mandated agencies like Kāinga Ora are required to apply Government Procurement Rules, which means that we use the All-of-Government procurement guidance referenced in the Minister's response for IT hardware and motor vehicles.

I can also advise you that when sourcing construction materials, Kāinga Ora requires suppliers to confirm that their products meet relevant standards for the responsible sourcing of material, human rights, and labour practices.

Where we identify potential or actual risk in the supply chain, Kāinga Ora undertakes due diligence to understand if the risk is present and takes alternative actions. An example of this is the supply of solar panels. There is a known risk of a likelihood of the silicone used in some panels sourced from the Xingiang Urghyr Autonomous region as around 50 percent of the worlds solar-grade polysilicon is produced in that area. Kāinga Ora undertakes due diligence to understand the supply chain and to only purchase products which do not contain silicone produced in this area.

Kāinga Ora has brought on a specialist lead to develop its own internal guidance and policy around the responsible procuring of products and materials that will further mitigate the risks in procurement associated with modern slavery and worker exploitation. However, at the time for your request, Kāinga Ora did not have a report that provided guidelines or discussed efforts to mitigate the risk of modern slavery or exploitation. I am therefore declining this part of your request under section 18(e) of the Act, as '*...the document alleged to contain the information requested does not exist or, despite reasonable efforts to locate it, cannot be found...*'

Nevertheless, if verifiable evidence of a supplier, brand, or product using material sourced in an illegal or inappropriate manner were to be provided, Kāinga Ora would take appropriate action and seek an alternative product or supplier as soon as was reasonably practical.

Thank you again for your request. For more information about Kāinga Ora and its procurement practices, please feel free to visit our website at <https://kaingaora.govt.nz/working-with-us/procurement-supplying-goods-and-services-to-us/>.

Please note that Kāinga Ora proactively releases our responses to official information requests where possible. Our response to your request may be published at <https://kaingaora.govt.nz/publications/official-information-requests/> with your personal information removed.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Rachel Kelly". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'R'.

Rachel Kelly
Manager Government Relations