

22 December 2023

T Murray

By email: fyi-request-25109-d5dbc850@requests.fyi.org.nz

Tēnā koe T Murray

Thank you for your request, received on 9 December 2023, for the following information under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

- *“The date, time and location of your initial meeting with the new Minister for your department;*
- *A list of attendees at this meeting*
- *The cost of any flights and accommodation for staff who reside outside of wellington to attend this meeting*
- *Any documentation provided at the meeting*
- *All notes (including handwritten notes) taken at the meeting by department staff;*
- *A copy of any emails sent by department attendees or all staff communications regarding the meeting with the new Minister.”*

At the time of your request arrangements for a meeting with the Minister were still to be confirmed. However, despite those arrangements only being finalised after the date of your request we have decided, in the interests of efficiency for this request, to provide you with information that was created after your request was made.

The Electricity Authority met with Hon Simeon Brown (Minister for Energy) on Monday 18 December 2023 at 6pm at the Minister’s office in Wellington. The following board members attended:

- Anna Kominik (Board Chair)
- Allan Dawson
- Paula Rose
- Lana Stockman
- Dr Cristiano Marantes

The following senior staff members attended:

- Sarah Gillies (Chief Executive)
- Andrew Miller (General Manager - Market Policy)

There was no cost for these board members and staff to attend as all were already in Wellington for the Authority Board meeting.

The Authority provided the Minister with three documents at the meeting. The Market Development Advisory Group's *Price discovery in a renewables-based electricity system – Final recommendations paper* is [available on our website](#). The other two documents are being withheld under section 18(d) of the Act as they were shared with the Minister in confidence and will be made publicly available in January 2024.

The Authority did not take any notes at the meeting therefore this part of your request is refused under section 18(e) on the basis that the document does not exist.

The Authority has interpreted your request for “*emails sent by department attendees or all staff communications regarding the meeting with the new Minister*” to be in regard to the meeting on Monday 18 December 2023 at 6pm. We have identified 8 emails within scope of this request; these are attached to the letter. Some information is being withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the Act to protect the privacy of natural persons. We have also redacted parts of the emails that are not within the scope of your request.

I am satisfied, in terms of section 9(1) of the Act, that the need to withhold the information referred to above is not outweighed by other considerations that render it desirable, in the public interest, to make the information available.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this decision. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or freephone 0800 802 602.

If you wish to discuss this decision with us, please feel free to contact us by emailing oiia@ea.govt.nz.

Nāku noa, nā



Airihi Mahuika
GM Legal, Monitoring and Compliance