



30 January 2024

Ref: DOIA 2324-1305

Stephen Prendergast

fyi-request-25156-05590002@requests.fyi.org.nz

Tēnā koe Stephen Prendergast

Thank you for your email of 13 December 2023 to the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE) requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982, the following information:

On 12 December you advised you were refusing the request DOIA 2324-0822. This request is for all of the internal comms on that decision.

Please find enclosed the following information that is within scope of your request:

- RE: Info and Data Request - 63561 - Search for DOIA 2324-0822;
- RE: Review: refusal letter DOIA 2324-0822 Stephen Prendergast; and
- Recall of conversions regarding decision on DOIA 2324-0822.

As previously explained, MBIE identified 28 Official Information Act (OIA) requests that were in scope of your DOIA 2324-0822 request. The search results for that request yielded a total number 1,256 emails, which is an average of 44 emails per OIA request. MBIE calculates that it takes five minutes to process each email, therefore this would calculate to 104 hours. This time calculation does not take into account for any attachments included in these emails.

Retrieving the material, reviewing the material, assessing what is relevant to the specific request, then compiling the in-scope information all takes time. Once the material has been collated, we then commence an assessment of the material to identify if there is any information that needs to be withheld. Consultations with subject matter experts and relevant third parties (including private groups as well as other government agencies) assist us with this assessment. Noting the amount of time that would be required to extract, collate and assess each of these emails, the request was considered as substantial. Therefore, under our normal process for all OIA requests, MBIE made a decision to decline your DOIA 2324-0822 request under section 18(f) of the OIA, as the information requested could not be made available without substantial collation or research.

If you wish to discuss any aspect of your request or this response, or if you require any further assistance, please contact OIA@mbie.govt.nz.

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.

Nāku noa, nā

Tane Dewes

Manager Operations Support and Improvement

Kānoa – Regional Economic Development & Investment Unit

From: [Records Services](#)
To: [Marianna James](#); [Records Services](#)
Cc: [David Gemmell](#)
Subject: RE: Info and Data Request - 63561 - Search for DOIA 2324-0822 [UNCLASSIFIED]
Date: Friday, 8 December 2023 11:54:16 am
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)

Kia ora Marianna,

I have saved the exports for all the searches in the folder below.

Email search results

<https://mako.wd.govt.nz/otcs/lisapi.dll/open/149015127>

Four of the searches were easy to move into MAKO. They are shown below.

OIA requests on RAL AND concession - Marianna AND @doc.pst 3

<https://mako.wd.govt.nz/otcs/lisapi.dll/link/149099326>

Search result 91 emails

OIA requests on RAL AND concession OR license - Marianna AND @doc.pst 2

<https://mako.wd.govt.nz/otcs/lisapi.dll/link/149097973>

Search result 71 emails

OIA requests on RAL liquidation AND concession OR license - NOT media.pst

<https://mako.wd.govt.nz/otcs/lisapi.dll/link/148505212>

Search result 91 emails

OIA requests on RAL OR ruapehu AND participant @...

<https://mako.wd.govt.nz/otcs/lisapi.dll/link/149096245>

Search result 20 emails

The fifth search was the largest at 3024 emails and this extra size presented added complication of not being able to save the resulting .pst file into MAKO.

To resolve this issue I created a new folder for this search, linked below.

OIA requests on RAL AND concession OR license - NOT media

<https://mako.wd.govt.nz/otcs/lisapi.dll/open/149102495>

Even once the duplicates had been removed from this search the count was still 1256 emails. The size of a .pst file is a mix of volume of the results as well as the make up of the emails found. Any emails that have attachments will make the .pst file larger. The more attachments the larger the .pst file.

To resolve this I re ran the export to split the results into a .pst file for each of the 506 mailboxes results had been identified in. The advantage of this is that none of the .pst files are too large. It also gave me a chance to delete the mailboxes that had no content. This happens when duplicates are removed and this was the only the content of the identified mailbox. In the end there were 121 mailboxes that had content.

I am sorry it has taken so long to get to this point, but the popularity of the terms which lead to so many emails being found added to the system complications that larger searches present.

Thanks

David Gemmell

SENIOR ADVISOR INFORMATION

Telephone: s 9(2)(a)
Level 4, 110 Featherston Street, Wellington, PO Box 1473, Wellington 6011, New Zealand

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From: Marianna James <xxxxxxxx.xxxxx@xxxx.xxxx.xx>
Sent: Monday, 27 November 2023 4:11 PM
To: Records Services <xxxxxxxxxxxx@xxxx.xxxx.xx>
Cc: David Gemmell <xxxxx.xxxxxxx@xxxx.xxxx.xx>
Subject: RE: Info and Data Request - 63561 - Search for DOIA 2324-0822 [UNCLASSIFIED]

Hi David

Hope you're well

Any updates to the second search for the Info and Data Request 63561?

Kind regards

Marianna James

ADVISOR

Kānoa – Regional Economic Development & Investment Unit
Ministry of Business, Innovation & Employment

xxxxxxxx.xxxxx@xxxx.xxxx.xx | s 9(2)(a)

15 Stout Street, Wellington

NZBN 9429000106078



Kānoa
Regional Economic Development
& Investment Unit



New Zealand Government

From: Marianna James
Sent: Tuesday, November 21, 2023 12:46 PM
To: Records Services <xxxxxxxxxxxx@xxxx.xxxx.xx>
Cc: David Gemmell <xxxxx.xxxxxxx@xxxx.xxxx.xx>
Subject: RE: Info and Data Request - 63561 - Search for DOIA 2324-0822 [UNCLASSIFIED]

Hi David

As discussed, here are the two attachments: the pdf contains emails that DOC captured in their search for a similar OIA request, this includes the word concession. In addition, the attached email was captured in our search, however, my reply to the email wasn't included in the search results.

Thanks for the chat and hopefully we can find an approach that could capture majority of the emails !

Kind regards

Marianna James

ADVISOR

Kānoa – Regional Economic Development & Investment Unit

Ministry of Business, Innovation & Employment

xxxxxxx.xxxxx@xxxx.xxxx.xx | s 9(2)(a)

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From: Marianna James

Sent: Tuesday, 21 November 2023 10:20 am

To: Records Services <xxxxxxx.xxxxxxxx@xxxx.xxxx.xx>

Cc: David Gemmell <xxxxx.xxxxxxx@xxxx.xxxx.xx>

Subject: RE: Info and Data Request - 63561 - Search for DOIA 2324-0822 [UNCLASSIFIED]

Haaha yup, found it! – thanks for the help David

Kind regards

Marianna James

ADVISOR

Kānoa – Regional Economic Development & Investment Unit

Ministry of Business, Innovation & Employment

xxxxxxx.xxxxx@xxxx.xxxx.xx | s 9(2)(a)

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From: Records Services <xxxxxxx.xxxxxxxx@xxxx.xxxx.xx>

Sent: Tuesday, 21 November 2023 9:46 am

To: Marianna James <xxxxxxx.xxxxx@xxxx.xxxx.xx>; Records Services <xxxxxxx.xxxxxxxx@xxxx.xxxx.xx>

Cc: David Gemmell <xxxxx.xxxxxxx@xxxx.xxxx.xx>

Subject: RE: Info and Data Request - 63561 - Search for DOIA 2324-0822 [UNCLASSIFIED]

Hello again,

I was about to let you know that I had added the .pst file to the folder, but I see you have found it already!

Thanks

David

From: Marianna James <xxxxxxx.xxxxx@xxxx.xxxx.xx>

RELEASED UNDER THE
OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT

Sent: Monday, 20 November 2023 4:06 PM

To: Records Services <xxxxxxx.xxxxxxxx@xxxx.xxxx.xx >

Cc: David Gemmell <xxxxx.xxxxxxx@xxxx.xxxx.xx >

Subject: RE: Info and Data Request - 63561 - Search for DOIA 2324-0822 [UNCLASSIFIED]

Thanks David – as discussed could you please save the documents here: <https://mako.wd.govt.nz/otcs/cs.exe?func=ll&objId=147219161&objAction=browse&viewType=1>

Kind regards

Marianna James

ADVISOR

Kānoa – Regional Economic Development & Investment Unit

Ministry of Business, Innovation & Employment

xxxxxxx.xxxxx@xxxx.xxxx.xx | s 9(2)(a)

15 Stout Street, Wellington

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From: Records Services <xxxxxxx.xxxxxxxx@xxxx.xxxx.xx >

Sent: Monday, 20 November 2023 4:03 pm

To: Records Services <xxxxxxx.xxxxxxxx@xxxx.xxxx.xx >; Marianna James <xxxxxxx.xxxxx@xxxx.xxxx.xx >

Cc: RDU OSI <xxxxxxx@xxxx.xxxx.xx >

Subject: RE: Info and Data Request - 63561 - Search for DOIA 2324-0822 [UNCLASSIFIED]

Hello,

Here is the users list as discussed.

Location	Items
xxxxxx.xxxxx@xxxx.xxxx.xx	217
xxxxxxx.xxxxx@xxxx.xxxx.xx	194
xxxxxx.xxxxxxx@xxxx.xxxx.xx	189
xxxxx.xxxxx@xxxx.xxxx.xx	178
xxxxxxx@xxxx.xxxx.xx	130
xxxx.xxxx@xxxx.xxxx.xx	81
xxxxx.xxxxxx@xxxx.xxxx.xx	69
xxxx.xxxxxx@xxxx.xxxx.xx	62
xxxxxxxxxx.xxxxxxx@xxxx.xxxx.xx	60
xxxxx.xxxxxxx@xxxx.xxxx.xx	53
xxxxxx.xxxxxxx@xxxx.xxxx.xx	41
xxxxx.xxxxxxx@xxxx.xxxx.xx	39
xxxxxx.xxxxxxx@xxxx.xxxx.xx	38
xxxx.xxxxxxx@xxxx.xxxx.xx	35
xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx@xxxx.xxxx.xx	30
xxxx.xxxxx@xxxx.xxxx.xx	29
xxxxxxx.xxxxx@xxxx.xxxx.xx	26
xxx.xxxx@xxxx.xxxx.xx	23

xxx@xxxx.xxxx.xx	20
xxxx.xxxxx@xxxx.xxxx.xx	18
xxxxxx.xxxxxxxxx@xxxx.xxxx.xx	17
xxxxx.xxxxxxxxx@xxxx.xxxx.xx	16
xxxx.xxxxxx@xxxx.xxxx.xx	15
xxxxxxx@xxxx.xxxx.xx	15
xxxx.xxxxxx@xxxx.xxxx.xx	15
xxxxxx.xxxxxxxxx@xxxx.xxxx.xx	15
xxxxx.xxxxxxxxxx@xxxx.xxxx.xx	12
xxxx.xxxxx@xxxx.xxxx.xx	11
xxxxx.xxxxxxxxxxxxx@xxxx.xxxx.xx	10
xxx.xxxxxxx@xxxx.xxxx.xx	8

From: Records Services

Sent: Friday, 17 November 2023 12:44 PM

To: Marianna James <[xxxxxxxx.xxxxx@xxxx.xxxx.xx](#)>; Records Services <[xxxxxxxxxxxx@xxxx.xxxx.xx](#)>

Cc: RDU OSI <[RDU_xxx@xxxx.xxxx.xx](#)>

Subject: RE: Info and Data Request - 63561 - Search for DOIA 2324-0822 [UNCLASSIFIED]

Hello again Marianna,

I ran three extra searches for this request. I ran one with the extra keyword "concession" and one with the extra keyword "license". After seeing the numbers involved in those results I ran a search using both "concession" OR "license". The table below shows the items found for each search.

Name	Number of emails	After duplicates removed
OIA requests on RAL liquidation AND concession - NOT media	944	
OIA requests on RAL liquidation AND license - NOT media	1,343	
OIA requests on RAL liquidation AND concession OR license - NOT media	1,963	789

I only ran the export process for the combined search as the total numbers in that was less than the sum of the other two searches.

Thanks

David

From: Marianna James <[xxxxxxxx.xxxxx@xxxx.xxxx.xx](#)>

Sent: Monday, 13 November 2023 3:16 PM

To: Records Services <[xxxxxxxxxxxx@xxxx.xxxx.xx](#)>

Cc: Marianna James <[xxxxxxxx.xxxxx@xxxx.xxxx.xx](#)>; RDU OSI <[xxxxxxxx@xxxx.xxxx.xx](#)>

Subject: RE: Info and Data Request - 63561 - Search for DOIA 2324-0822 [UNCLASSIFIED]

Hi David

Can I please pick this record search up again – due to the large number of emails, the requestor has asked us to refine the search and to filter for the terms "concession" or "license".

Could you please refine the search – thanks !

Kind regards

Marianna James

ADVISOR

Kānoa – Regional Economic Development & Investment Unit

Ministry of Business, Innovation & Employment

xxxxxxx.xxxxx@xxxx.xxxx.xx | s 9(2)(a)

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From: Records Services <xxxxxxx.xxxxxxxx@xxxx.xxxx.xx>

Sent: Tuesday, 7 November 2023 2:40 pm

To: Marianna James <xxxxxxx.xxxxx@xxxx.xxxx.xx>; Records Services <xxxxxxx.xxxxxxxx@xxxx.xxxx.xx>

Subject: RE: Info and Data Request - 63561 - Search for DOIA 2324-0822 [UNCLASSIFIED]

Hello again,

The total number of emails dropped from 11,876 to 4173 after the duplicates were removed. I have attached a list of all the email recipients in descending order of number of emails in their mailbox. The list does exceed 900 staff but there are only 160 staff who have 10 or more emails in their mailbox. I can narrow the search down to selected users if that helps with making the total more manageable.

Thanks

David

From: Marianna James <xxxxxxx.xxxxx@xxxx.xxxx.xx>

Sent: Tuesday, 7 November 2023 1:07 PM

To: Records Services <xxxxxxx.xxxxxxxx@xxxx.xxxx.xx>

Subject: RE: Info and Data Request - 63561 - Search for DOIA 2324-0822 [UNCLASSIFIED]

Thank you for the initial counts David, I'll await for your following email that will refine the second search

Kind regards

Marianna James

ADVISOR

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xxxxxxx.xxxxx@xxxx.xxxx.xx | s 9(2)(a)

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From: Records Services <xxxxxxx.xxxxxxxx@xxxx.xxxx.xx >
Sent: Tuesday, 7 November 2023 12:04 pm
To: Marianna James <xxxxxxx.xxxxx@xxxx.xxxx.xx >
Subject: Info and Data Request - 63561 - Search for DOIA 2324-0822 [UNCLASSIFIED]

Kia ora Marianna,

I have run a couple of searches covering the request for emails where *content included the discussion of OIA requests on RAL liquidation or Administration.*

The first search results was large at over 39,000 emails. I ran a search to strip out media alerts and messages generated by the OIA workflows. These are not emails that contain any "discussion", rather they are admin emails that deal with workflow tasks.

The second search total after the above messages were removed is 11,876 items. There is bound to be a bit of duplication in that number so I am exporting the search result so I can give you the final count. That will take a few hours and I will let you know what the number is when I can.

Thanks

David Gemmell

SENIOR ADVISOR INFORMATION

Records and Library Team | Data Strategy and Knowledge | Digital, Data and Insights Group (DDI)
Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment

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**MINISTRY OF BUSINESS,
INNOVATION & EMPLOYMENT**
HIKINA WHAKATUTUKI

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OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT

From: [Megan Allday](#)
To: [Marianna James](#)
Cc: [Tane Dewes](#)
Subject: RE: Review: refusal letter DOIA 2324-0822 Stephen Prendergast [IN DENCE]
Date: Friday, 8 December 2023 12:49:36 pm

Thanks Marianna – as discussed, change of “Act” to “OIA” to enable us to use the OIA acronym throughout, and a comment for you to action.

Once actioned, good to go to Tane for sign out – no need for me to see again.

-----Original Appointment-----

From: Marianna James <~~xx@xx~~>
Sent: Friday, 8 December 2023 10:43 am
To: Marianna James; Megan Allday
Subject: Review: refusal letter DOIA 2324-0822 Stephen Prendergast
When: Friday, 8 December 2023 12:00 pm-12:30 pm (UTC+12:00) Auckland, Wellington.
Where:

Hi Megan

Booking in time for you to sign-out an refusal letter

Can you please review and sign-out my refusal letter for DOIA 2324-0822 Stephen Prendergast

- [Refusal letter - DOIA 2324-0822 Stephen Prendergast](#)
- [Incoming corro](#)

Thanks
Marianna

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Recall of conversions regarding decision on DOIA 2324-0822 Stephen Prendergast

Calls between Marianna James and David Gemmell

- After Record Services email of 17 November 2023, Marianna scoped through the 789 emails and identified that there was information missing. Information such as communications between Department of Conservation (DOC) and Marianna.
- On 21 November 2023, Marianna called David Gemmel and explained the above and asked to conduct another search to ensure that they had captured everything in scope.
- David and Marianna also discussed ways to conduct the search and what search terms would be appropriate to use so that within scope information is included.
- On 4 December 2023, Marianna called David and asked for the revised numbers. David explained that search resulted in over 3,000 emails.
- Marianna asked if there were any other ways to reduce the number of emails and/or if there are other appropriate ways to conduct the search. David expressed that he has conducted four separate searches to capture the relevant information.
- Marianna then asked for the duplicates to be removed to show the final numbers and asked if he could send his search results in an email for record purposes. David agreed to do so.

Meeting between Marianna James and Megan Allday

- On 6 December 2023, Marianna and Megan had a discussion regarding the call Marianna had with David and the revised numbers of emails.
- It was agreed they would recommend to the sign out manager refusing the request under 18(f) of the Act, unless the removal of duplicates substantially reduced the amount of material. They discussed if an extension would enable the request to be processed.

Decision made:

- Following the discussion with Megan, and David's email of 8 December 2023, the revised numbers were confirmed to be a total of 1,256.
- Marianna applied MBIE's time calculation to this number to see how achievable this would be, even with an extension. Based on MBIE's standard calculation that it takes five minutes to process each email, this would calculate to 104 hours. In addition, this did not include the time it would take to recall and factor in any texts, phone records, and the time taken to then assess the material against the Act and undertake any necessary consultations.
- It was deemed that this was too large, noting the amount of time that would be required to extract, collate and assess each of these (to determine if they were in scope of the request or not).
- The sign out manager made the decision to refuse the request under section 18(f) of the Act, as the information requested could not be made available without substantial collation or research.