

Hon Dr Megan Woods

MP for Wigram

Minister of Energy and Resources

Minister Responsible for the Earthquake Commission

Minister for Greater Christchurch Regeneration

Minister of Research, Science and Innovation



OIA17-024

Dr Terrence Loomis

fyi-request-6846-1a44d3ce@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Dr Loomis

Thank you for your email of 17 November 2017 to requesting the following under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

On 17 October 2017, Prime Minister Ardern told TV3's The Nation that "fossil fuels were not New Zealand's future, and future block offers would be reviewed." I would like to know what advice you have sought and/or policy work you have requested to review and potentially phase out the Block Offer process. When do you anticipate receiving results of that advice or review?

On 31 October 2017, the Fossil Fuels Aotearoa Research Network released a report on New Zealand government subsidies for the oil and gas industry, updating and expanding on a 2013 report by WWF-New Zealand. I would like to know whether you have called for a review of government support (including 'subsidies') for the oil and gas industry in New Zealand and if so, when do you anticipate receiving the results of that review? If not, why not?

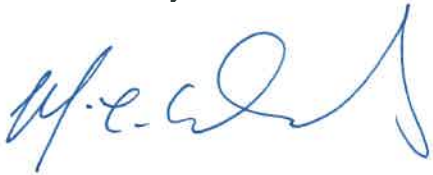
In answer to the first part of your request, the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment has provided me with general briefings relating to the 2017 and 2018 Block Offers, in the context of briefing me on Energy and Resources portfolio matters. However, I have not yet sought direct advice or policy work to review and potentially phase out the Block Offer process. This part of your request is therefore refused under section 18(e) of the Act, as the document alleged to contain the information requested does not exist.

In answer to the second part of your request, I have not commissioned a review of government support for oil and gas industry in New Zealand. The 2015 report by APEC confirmed that New Zealand does not have economically inefficient fossil fuel subsidies. New Zealand is proud to lead the world in global fossil fuel subsidy reform, and is working hard to encourage the reduction, and ultimately elimination, of fossil fuel subsidies.

The 2015 report can be found here: www.mbie.govt.nz/info-services/sectors-industries/energy/international-relationships/pdf-document-library/peer-review-fossil-fuel-subsidy-reforms-nz.pdf.

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

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'M. Woods', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Hon Dr Megan Woods
Minister of Energy and Resources