



File No. DOIA 1819-0718

24 JAN 2018

T Martin

fyi-request-8620-cd59f6f6@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear T Martin

Thank you for your request for information under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), which on 14 November 2018 was amended to:

- *Whether any critical evaluation of the effectiveness of the three methods Acceptable Work Program Offer, Newly Available Acreage, and Competitive Tender for minerals permit allocation has been carried out subsequent to the implementation of the Crown Minerals Amendment Act 2013.*
- *Any documents or reports relating to the evaluation of allocation methods.*
- *Any key correspondence regarding the necessity, requirement, or cancellation of such an evaluation.*
- *Any briefings to the Minister relating to the evaluation of allocation methods.*

In 2015, the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (the Ministry) conducted a review of the current minerals allocation methods operating in New Zealand. The purpose of the review was to assess the extent to which the Ministry's practices result in efficient allocation of mineral permits.

Please find enclosed with this letter seven documents and key correspondence relating to the evaluation of allocation methods, as detailed in the attached schedule.

Some information within these documents has been withheld under the following sections of the Act:

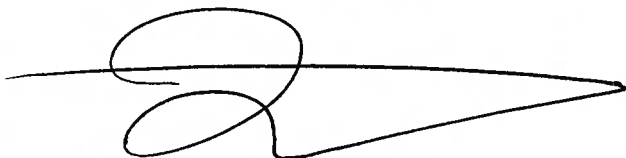
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|-------------|---|
| 9(2)(a) | to protect the privacy of natural persons, including that of deceased natural persons |
| 9(2)(b)(ii) | to protect information where the making available of the information would likely unreasonably to prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied or who is the subject of the information |
| 9(2)(h) | to maintain legal professional privilege. |

Please note that "key correspondence", as per the refined wording of your 14 November request, has been interpreted to mean only correspondence relating directly to the "necessity, requirement, or cancellation" of a minerals allocation evaluation, and not correspondence that simply mentions or refers to the subject.

No briefings were provided to the Minister of Energy and Resources relating to the evaluation, and therefore the fourth part of your request is refused under section 18(e) of the Act, as this information does not exist.

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 black ink, consisting of several loops and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Ilana Miller
National Manager Minerals and Petroleum
Energy and Resource Markets
Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment

Schedule of documents and key correspondence released

#	Title	Date
1	<i>Guide to New Zealand Petroleum & Minerals (NZP&M) Newly Available Acreage (NAA) Process</i>	30 June 2015, with comments dated 28 January 2016
2	<i>Minerals Allocation Review: Final Report</i>	May 2016
3	<i>Memorandum on Minerals Estate Allocation Strategy</i>	1 May 2017
4	<i>Newly Available Acreage (NAA): How might we better use the Newly Available Acreage (NAA) process to allocate mineral permits?</i>	May 2017
5	<i>Newly Available Acreage (NAA): Brief to ERM LT</i>	17 October 2017
6	<i>Newly Available Acreage (NAA): Problems, Factors and Assumptions</i>	undated
7	<i>Minerals Allocation Review 2015: Summary of Findings (A3)</i>	undated
8	<i>Correspondence: Internal NAA guidance</i>	30 January 2017
9	<i>Correspondence: Next steps...</i>	27 February 2017
10	<i>Correspondence: For your action: NAA Governance</i>	2 March 2017