

19-D-02509

Chris Johnston
fyi-request-11318-98c5562b@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Chris

Thank you for your email of 4 November 2019 requesting information under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) regarding the processes at the Ministry for the Environment (the Ministry) in responding to requests for official information:

Please state definitively whether the MfE excludes responses to previous OIAs from subsequent OIA responses.

Can you please describe whether the MfE's policy for responding to OIAs has changed since my previous OIA (in which case please forward the guidance and related documents approving this change).

Please note that material in scope of parts 1, 2, and 3 of your full request has been addressed in separate responses and sent to your previous FYI.org requests - these being the responses with the tracking numbers: 19-D-02214, 19-D-02216, and 19-D-02217. This letter specifically addresses the questions you have raised around the Ministry's approach to information requests.

The Ministry assesses and responds to requests for official information in accordance with the Act and Ombudsman and State Services Commission advice. There has been no change in the Ministry's approach to answering responses.

Each request for official information is evaluated to ensure that documents deemed to be in scope are identified. This includes previous requests for official information, provided that the response is in scope of the new request.

The Ministry acknowledges that we should have informed you of our intention to combine your three requests into a single response. We apologise for not doing so in this instance.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Office of the Ombudsman regarding our response to your request, in accordance with section 28(3) of the Act. The relevant details can be found on their website at: www.ombudsman.parliament.nz.

Please note that due to the public interest in our work the Ministry for the Environment publishes responses to requests for official information on our [OIA responses page](#) shortly after the response has been sent. If you have any queries about this, please feel free to contact our Executive Relations team.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a small initial 'K.M.' followed by a large, stylized, cursive signature.

Kirsty Millard
Director, Legal, Procurement and Executive Relations