

19-D-02488

B. James
fyi-request-11584-5f42bbf2@requests.fyi.org.nz

28 November 2019

Dear B. James

Thank you for your email on 3 November 2019 requesting the following under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

What are the specific chemicals used (or planned to be used) in the Stratospheric Aerosol Injection program?

<https://www.google.com/amp/s/www.newshub.co.nz/home/world/2018/11/scientists-study-spraying-chemicals-in-atmosphere-to-slow-global-warming.amp.html>

The Ministry does not hold any information about this research. Your request is therefore refused under Section 18(e) of the Act as the document alleged to contain the information requested does not exist.

Your request refers to a news item reporting a research article. The article is publicly available online at <https://iopscience.iop.org/article/10.1088/1748-9326/aae98d>. As you can see there, the study was restricted to considering "sulfate aerosols" as the material used. The reasons for this are discussed in the research article.

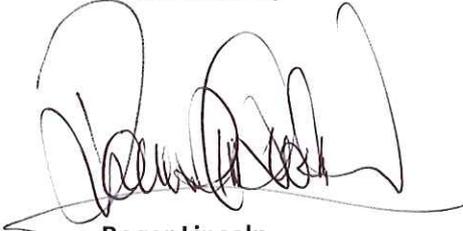
The New Zealand Government was not involved in the research reported, or the news item. This was a theoretical study, and so far there has been no deployment of such geoengineering anywhere in the world, nor are we aware of any plans to do so.

Currently, there is not enough scientific evidence to ensure that this form of geoengineering is safe. The recent Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5°C by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change stated that although such measures "may be theoretically effective in reducing an overshoot [of 1.5°C], they face large uncertainties and knowledge gaps as well as substantial risks". For example, rainfall patterns are likely to change if such geoengineering is introduced, which could have significant consequences for the primary sector.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Office of the Ombudsman, 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 black ink, appearing to read 'Roger Lincoln', written in a cursive style.

Roger Lincoln
Director, Climate Change