

20-D-01523

John Luke
fyi-request-13487-a23e1143@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear John Luke

Thank you for your email of 10 August 2020 requesting the following under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

I noted you have some funds on your website:

<https://www.mfe.govt.nz/more/funding/waste-minimisation-fund/waste-minimisation-fund-eligibility-and-assessment-criteria>

- *Waste Minimisation Fund*
- *Freshwater Improvement Fund*
- *Te Mana o Te Wai Fund*
- *Community Environment Fund*
- *Environmental Legal Assistance Fund*

Can I please request the panel member name of each funds, their bio if available. How you call for public application of each panel member positions and how much are their pay rate. Each member's term of appointment and job description of their position.

I apologise for the delay in providing this response to you. The Ministry for the Environment (the Ministry) has identified eight documents in scope of your request, as listed in the attached document schedule. A further summary document is also provided.

The names of Waste Minimisation Fund (WMF) panel members have been withheld under the following section of the Act:

9(2)(g)(ii) to maintain the effective conduct of public affairs through the protection of such Ministers, members of organisations, officers, and employees from improper pressure or harassment.

Your request for the names of panel members of the Environment Legal Assistance Fund has been refused under section 18(d) of the Act, as this information is publicly available. You can find the panel member names at www.mfe.govt.nz/more/funding/environmental-legal-assistance-fund/about-fund. Additional information relating to this fund has been included in Appendix 1: Summary of fund details.

The names of panel members of the Freshwater Improvement Fund, Te Mana o Te Wai Fund, and Community Environment Fund have also been provided in Appendix 1.

Please note the Ministry does not hold information relating to biographies of these panel members, therefore this information has been refused under section 18(e) of the Act, as the document alleged to contain the information does not exist.

In terms of section 9(1) of the Act, I am satisfied that, in the circumstances, the withholding of this information is not outweighed by other considerations that render it desirable to make the information available in the public interest.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Office of the Ombudsman of my decision to withhold information relating to this 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 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 Ministerial Services team: ministerials@mfe.govt.nz.

Yours sincerely

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

Shaun Lewis
Director, Systems Change and Investment

Document schedule

No.	Date	Content	Decision	OIA Section/s applied (if withholding information)
1		Appendix 1: Summary of fund details	Information withheld in part	9(2)(g)(ii)
2		Appendix 2: WMF Panel nomination process:	Released	N/A
3		Appendix 3: WMF Panel terms of reference:	Released	N/A
4		Appendix 4: Freshwater Improvement Fund 2017 Assessment Panel Terms of Reference	Released	N/A
5		Appendix 5: Freshwater Improvement Fund – panel nomination form	Released	N/A
6		Appendix 6: Te Mana o Te Wai Fund 2015 Assessment Panel Terms of Reference	Released	N/A
7		Appendix 7: Community Environment Fund 2017 Assessment Panel Terms of Reference	Released	N/A
8		Appendix 8: Terms of Appointment to the Environmental Legal Assistance Fund Panel	Released	N/A
9		Waste Minimisation Fund panel biographies	Withheld in full	9(2)(g)(ii)