

20-D-02025

Lance-Desmond Lavery  
[fyi-request-14034-d70aedfe@requests.fyi.org.nz](mailto:fyi-request-14034-d70aedfe@requests.fyi.org.nz)

Dear Lance-Desmond Lavery

Thank you for your email of 26 October to the Ministry for the Environment (the Ministry) requesting the following under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

*The reason as to why the OECD team that was commissioned to write a fresh water quality report (2017) about New Zealand was lied to about the availability of Dr. Mike Joy as a consultant.*

The Ministry identified no documents in scope of your request. Therefore, your request is refused under section 18(e) of the Act, as the information requested does not exist.

For context, OECD environmental performance reviews provide independent and credible assessments of countries' progress towards their environmental policy objectives. The OECD asked the Ministry to suggest potential interviewees representing a wide range of subject areas and perspectives, reflecting that the OECD report was much broader than just water. A list of 200 potential interviewees for the review team's week-long visit was provided by the Ministry. The OECD chose who to speak to and were open to speaking to people suggested by sources other than the Ministry. In addition, the OECD invited anyone who was interested to provide additional information outside the actual visit.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Office of the Ombudsman of this response, in accordance with section 28(3) of the Act. The relevant details can be found on its website at: [www.ombudsman.parliament.nz](http://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](mailto:ministerials@mfe.govt.nz).

Yours sincerely



Hayden Johnston  
**Acting Director, Water and Land Use Policy**