



Ref. No. DOIA 2021-2049

11 June 2021

Ed Grove

fyi-request-15173-64a5ff2d@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Ed Grove

Thank you for your email of 14 April 2021 to the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE) requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), the following information:

“...copies of all research documentation, analysis, internal reports and internal and external communications dating from 2013 onwards regarding the presence and potential ramifications of elevated (80% - 100%) relative humidity levels (with or without any associated condensation) within the wall structures of new (post 2005) timber framed cavity-constructed residences including in particular:

(a) Any analysis as to the impact of such elevated relative humidity levels (with or without any associated condensation) on timber framing moisture levels and decay and mould risks;

(b) Any research/analysis or correspondence as to the impact of the elevated (80 - 100%) relative humidity levels upon the rate of loss by diffusion of boron from timber framing, the impact of the elevated relative humidity levels upon the ultimate residual (equilibrium) levels of boron in the timber framing, and consequent impact on the efficacy of the boron treatment for control of decay fungi and mould. More generally, any research/analysis or correspondence as to whether or not boron treatment will be sufficient to prevent mould and/or decay fungi growth on timber framing in elevated (80% - 100%) relative humidity levels;

(c) Any field observations of (or correspondence/notes regarding) mould and decay-fungi growth in the internal wall structures of new (post 2005) timber framed and cavity constructed buildings where no material external liquid moisture entry (i.e. leaks) has been detected;

(d) Any research/analysis, notes or correspondence regarding whether or not current (post 2005) timber framed cavity construction is achieving, or is likely to achieve, or can/should be modified to achieve, compliance with the Building Code in light of the potential impacts of elevated interstitial relative humidity levels and/or any associated condensation.”

On 22 April 2021, MBIE informed you that, unless you were able to narrow the scope of your request, MBIE would likely refuse your request under section 18(f) of the Act, as the information requested cannot be made available without substantial collation or research. MBIE also provided you contextual information and two reports that, though not technically in scope of your request, we thought you might be interested in.



On 29 April 2021, you responded to MBIE, explaining your concerns about mould and decay fungi growth in timber-framed and cavity-constructed homes. Your email has been forwarded to the relevant teams at MBIE for their consideration.

With regards to our response to your request, MBIE notified you of a 20 day extension, made under 15A(1)(b) of the Act, on 13 May 2021.

The Document Schedule below lists the documents that fall within scope of your request. Some information from within these documents has been withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the Act, to protect individuals' privacy. I am satisfied that, in the circumstances, the withholding of this information is not outweighed by other considerations that render it desirable to make it available in the public interest.

Document Schedule

No.	Doc Type	Name/ Subject Matter	Date
1	Email	Re: Vapour Control in NZ Walls – Draft BRANZ study report for comment	4 March 2016
2	Email	FW: My feedback on Vapour Control in NZ Walls (BRANZ Report SR 344)	4 March 2016
3	Email	Re: American construction trainer presents weathertightness seminars in NZ	9 March 2016
4	Draft Word Doc	New Zealand Dwelling – Hygro-Thermal Modelling Project – DRAFT	3 May 2017
5	Email	Progress on H-1 Report	22 May 2017
5a	- Attachment	Introduction to H1 Report AFD 16 May 2017.docx	
5b	- Attachment	Levy Out of Schedule Application Stage 3 – H1 Scoping	
6	Email	FW: Progress on H1 Report	23 May 2017
6a	- Attachment	Levy Out of Schedule Application Stage 3 – H1 Scoping_NB Comments22Mar17.docx	
6b	- Attachment	Exec summary Typologies stage 2 second cut.docx	
7	Email	FW: H1 Draft Report	8 June 2017
7a	- Attachment	New Zealand Dwelling Hygro-Thermal Modelling Project (2017_H1 Study Report_3 May_MBIE Review_2)	
8	Email	FW: 2017_H1 Study Report_3 May_MBIE Review_2_NB_Feedback	16 June 2017
8a	- Attachment	2017_H1 Study Report_3 May_MBIE Review_2_NB_Feedback.docx	
9	Email	RE: H1 Presentation	29 June 2017
10	Email	BRANZ MBIE H1 Presentation_Intro_Background_post_AFB.pptx	21 August 2017
10a	- Attachment	BRANZ MBIE H1 Presentation_Intro_Background_post_AFB.pptx	
11	Meeting Invite	Internal Environment Performance of New Zealand Dwellings	22 August 2017
12	Meeting Invite	Model Buildings and Internal Environment (aka prepping for H1/typologies) Stage 3	9 October 2017

13	Email	Energy efficiency background work	3 July 2018
13a	- Attachment	A Review of the Internal Environment of New Homes and its Implications for the New Zealand Building Code and Supporting Documents	
13b	- Attachment	New Zealand Dwelling – Hygro-thermal Modelling Project (H1 Study Report_8 June MBIE Review_2 – Draft)	
13c	- Attachment	Preparing for the next version of H1 (BRANZ MBIE H1 Presentation 22 Aug 17_final.pptx)	
13d	- Attachment	The selection and hygrothermal modelling of new New Zealand dwelling (pilot)	
13e	- Attachment	Project Proposal Template (Model buildings bid document	
14	Meeting Invite	Five-year plan Interrelationships for H1, G4, and E3	1 March 2019
14a	- Attachment	Research Project Brief (BSP Research Project Brief H1...)	
14b	- Attachment	NOT RELEASED as same as doc 13d above	
14c	- Attachment	NOT RELEASED as same as doc 13a above	

You may also be interested in a BRANZ report titled, *Levy in Action 2018*, as it contains a brief section on page 59, on a project called, “Model buildings – Next generation of the Building Code”. It is available at: https://d39d3mj7qio96p.cloudfront.net/media/documents/Levy_in_Action_2018_2019.pdf.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of my response to your request. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or freephone 0800 802 602.

Yours sincerely



Anna Cook
Acting Manager, Building Performance and Engineering
 Building Resources and Markets