

Hon James Shaw

Minister of Climate Change

Associate Minister for the Environment (Biodiversity)



OIA430

Steven Cranston

By email: fyi-request-16683-bd5309e4@requests.fyi.org.nz

28 October 2021

Dear Steven,

Thank you for your email of 9 September 2021 requesting the following under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

As the Minister for Climate Change. Can you please provide all documents, written communication and meeting minutes that provided the scientific evidence to guide the Government decision to set the methane emission reduction target of 10% by 2030. Specifically, way was this target chosen.

As you are aware, on 5 October 2021, my office extended the timeframe to respond to your request by 15 working days, under sections 15A(1)(a) and 15A(1)(b) of the Act.

There are nine documents in scope of your request, as listed in the attached document schedule.

Eight of these documents have some information withheld under the following sections of the Act:

9(2)(a) to protect the privacy of natural persons

9(2)(f)(iv) to maintain the constitutional conventions for the time being which protect the confidentiality of advice tendered by Ministers of the Crown and officials.

9(2)(g)(i) to maintain the effective conduct of public affairs through the free and frank expression of opinions by or between or to Ministers of the Crown or members of an organisation or officers and employees of any public service agency or organisation in the course of their duty.

18(d) because the information is publically available.

Some material has also been withheld from Document 4 as it is out of scope of your request. The remaining document has been provided in full.

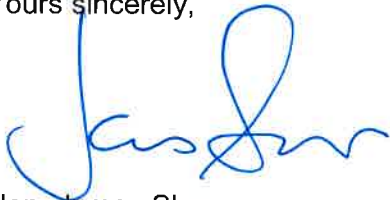
The final version of the cabinet paper referred to in three of these documents can be found here: <https://tinyurl.com/arucfhjx>.

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 contact my office if you have any queries about this response.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'James Shaw', with a large loop at the top.

Hon. James Shaw
Minister of Climate Change

Document schedule

No.	Date	Content	Decision	OIA Section/s applied
1	26 June 2018	18-B-04702 The role of methane emissions in mitigating climate change	Release in part	9(2)(a) 9(2)(f)(iv)
4	28 March 2019	19-B-05461 Climate Change Bill: Advice on target formulation and legal accountability	Release in part	9(2)(a) 9(2)(g)(i) Out of scope material withheld
6	26 June 2019	19-B-05733 Climate Change Response (Zero Carbon) Amendment Bill – Draft responses to the Environment Committee’s questions on science	Release in full	N/A
7	26 June 2019	19-B-05734 Summary of Scientific aspects of New Zealand’s 2050 emissions targets (Reisinger and Leahy)	Release in part	9(2)(a) 9(2)(g)(i) 18(d) https://tinyurl.com/3u4ey8cb
8	11 July 2019	19-B-05777 Climate Change Response (Zero Carbon) Amendment Bill – supplementary information for the Environment Select Committee	Release in part	9(2)(a)
9	25 July 2019	19-B-05838 Choices about target delivery	Release in part	9(2)(a)