

# Hon James Shaw

Minister of Climate Change

Associate Minister for the Environment (Biodiversity)



OIA579

Steven Cranston

By email: [fyi-request-22365-6a94311b@requests.fyi.org.nz](mailto:fyi-request-22365-6a94311b@requests.fyi.org.nz)

Tēnā koe Steven,

Thank you for your email of 3 April 2023 requesting the following under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

*"...please provide any text messages, emails, meeting notes, documents or other communication that references RCP 8.5. The IPCC has recently made the assessment that RCP 8.5 is implausible, I am interested as to why the NZ Government has not removed it from legislation and other climate change documents."*

I note that your request seeks information on advice and communications about the RCP 8.5 scenario. On 20 and 27 April 2023, my office sought clarification on the interpretation of your request. You responded on 27 April 2023 to confirm that you sought communications on RCP 8.5 from a week prior to COP 27, which began on 6 November 2023.

My office has therefore interpreted your request to be the following:

*"Please provide any text messages, emails, meeting notes, documents, or other communication that reference RCP 8.5, dated between 30 October 2023 and 3 April 2023."*

I can confirm that between 30 October 2023 and 3 April 2023, my office did not receive any text messages, emails, meeting notes, documents, or other communication referencing RCP 8.5. I was briefed by the Ministry for the Environment (the Ministry) on the IPCC AR6 Synthesis Report in late March 2023, but this did not contain information specific to RCP 8.5. As a result, I am refusing your request under section 18(e) of the Act, as the information requested does not exist or, despite reasonable efforts to locate it cannot be found.

I note that in taking steps to identify material as part of your request with you, the Ministry highlighted documents about the National Adaptation Plan and referencing RCP 8.5 that were prior to the timeframes stated in the scope of your request dating back to June 2022. If you wish to request these documents for release under the Act, please contact my office.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Office of the Ombudsman of my decision 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](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz).

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

Nāku hoa, nā,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'James Shaw'.

Hon. James Shaw

**Minister of Climate Change**