



OIAD-921

Paul Garner
fyi-request-25302-de036731@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Paul Garner

Thank you for your email of 10 January 2024 requesting the following under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

*In February 2023 the UN published One Atmosphere: An independent expert review on Solar Radiation Modification research and deployment
<https://apc01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwedocs.unep.org%2Fhandle%2F20.500.11822%2F41903&data=05%7C02%7Cocu%40transport.govt.nz%7C0c81bf65ba27421b722308dc0698ced3%7Cff09ef007cd0407ebe0ef00bc475a9ab%7C0%7C0%7C638392501691275422%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWljojMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzliLCJBTiI6Ikk1haWwiLCJXVCi6Mn0%3D%7C62000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=KyQegmLNM6as1QLNXpJSmfylmJdS5IQivmJKOfdP%2Fpg%3D&reserved=0> You will note from the report that the practice is widespread and that images within the document resemble NZ skies from time to time.*

In relation to this UN report in particular, or Solar Radiation Modification research, policy or deployment as pertains to NZ domestic and international policy, diplomatic, or legal activities, would you please provide:

- (1) an explanation of how the responsibilities are managed within the framework of NZ government institutions and responsibilities (lead agency, terms of reference, public-private-partnerships, research relationships);*
- (2) the relevant New Zealand policy direction or executive directions;*
- (3) copies of surveillance and monitoring reports of relevant operational activities for the most recently available 12 months; and,*
- (4) copies of any meeting minutes, commissioned research findings, or contractual relations for 2022-23 in relation to this subject.*

The New Zealand Government does not undertake any form of weather modification, including the use of HAARP, geoengineering or any other man-made device or any other weather modification methods. The Ministry is also unaware of any specific ongoing solar geoengineering research projects or initiatives in New Zealand. However, it is likely solar geoengineering is an active field of research both inside and, as the report attached indicates, outside of Aotearoa.

The Ministry for the Environment does not hold any information in scope of your request nor do we consider it likely that another government agency would hold information. Accordingly, I must refuse your request under 18(g) of the Act.

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.

Please note that due to the public interest in our work the Ministry for the Environment 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 'Sophie Heighway', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Sophie Heighway
Manager – Climate Impacts
Ministry for the Environment | Manatū Mō Te Taiao