



OIAD-963

Chris Johnston

fyi-request-25313-2f2cb35b@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Chris Johnston

Thank you for your email of 19 February 2024 requesting the following under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

Any document the MfE has that shows NZ experiences more than 0.04% (400ppm) of CO2 in its local atmosphere?

Any information MfE has on the local % of the 0.04% CO2 that is caused by human activity?

Any information MfE has on the lowest amount of CO2 in our atmosphere before plant growth stops?

Total cost to the NZ economy of the focus on CO2 / Climate since the ETS was put in place by year

Latest document that estimates the cost to the NZ govt to unwind/dissolve the ETS (or equivalent figure - eg value and volume of securities issued).

Which govt department administers the ETS (if not MfE).

How many MfE jobs relate to Climate/ETS/CCC work - please break down by division, and a separate breakdown by salary.

What % of non-field staff and what % of non-field salary cost does the previous answer represent? Please provide the denominators as well.

How many enquiries are received each year for the last 2 years regarding climate policies (OIA vs others)?

Please provide a list of partners/suppliers/universities/etc MfE uses to review published climate papers and offer advice on climate/IPCC issues. Please provide the total spent excluding GST for each of the last 3 calendar years. Where it is hard to identify invoices, then please identify expenditure by climate focussed divisions with external parties. Where expenditure is with a university then please identify the school (eg Physics, Mathematics, Botany).

Answers to your questions are outlined below.

Any document the MfE has that shows NZ experiences more than 0.04% (400ppm) of CO2 in its local atmosphere?

Any information MfE has on the local % of the 0.04% CO2 that is caused by human activity?

Any information MfE has on the lowest amount of CO2 in our atmosphere before plant growth stops?

The science of climate change is clearly explained in a number of peer-reviewed, publicly available papers, following the traditional and trusted scientific method. Hundreds of scientists and researchers from around the globe participate in the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) working groups, reviewing thousands of these papers. This is summarised in the IPCC Sixth Assessment Report, which provides a comprehensive summary of the state of scientific, technical, and socio-economic knowledge on climate change, its impacts and future risks, and options for adaptation and mitigation. The Sixth Assessment Report is available at: [Sixth Assessment Report — IPCC](#).

A comprehensive explanation of human influence and activities can be found within the IPCC's Sixth Assessment Report on the Physical Basis of Climate Change Chapter 03 - Human Influence on the Climate System: [ipcc.ch/report/ar6/wg1/downloads/report/IPCC_AR6_WGI_Chapter03.pdf](https://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar6/wg1/downloads/report/IPCC_AR6_WGI_Chapter03.pdf)

Another explanation of human activities can be found within the IPCC's Sixth Assessment Report on the Physical Basis of Climate Change Technical Summary, TS.1.2.4 - Understanding of Human Influence: [ipcc.ch/report/ar6/wg1/downloads/report/IPCC_AR6_WGI_TS.pdf](https://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar6/wg1/downloads/report/IPCC_AR6_WGI_TS.pdf)

CO₂ measurements from NIWA's atmospheric monitoring station at Baring Head can be found online at [Daily CO2 measurements from NIWA's atmospheric monitoring station at Baring Head | NIWA](#)

Total cost to the NZ economy of the focus on CO₂ / Climate since the ETS was put in place - by year

Both climate change itself and how New Zealand responds to the risks and opportunities it presents has material and fiscal implications. The Climate Economic and Fiscal Assessment presents available information on these implications and can be found online at <https://www.treasury.govt.nz/publications/climate-economic-fiscal-assessment/nga-korero-ahuarangi-me-te-ohanga-2023>

Latest document that estimates the cost to the NZ govt to unwind/dissolve the ETS (or equivalent figure - eg value and volume of securities issued).

The Ministry is not aware of any work undertaken to estimate this. Accordingly, this part of your request is refused under section 18(e) of the Act as the document requested does not exist.

Which govt department administers the ETS (if not MfE)

There are a number of government agencies involved in the New Zealand ETS. The Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) manages the administration of the ETS. The Ministry is responsible for managing policy development of the ETS. The Ministry for Primary Industries administers the ETS for forestry. Further information about the administration of the ETS can be found on the EPA's website at <https://www.epa.govt.nz/industry-areas/emissions-trading-scheme/about-the-nzets/>

How many MfE jobs relate to Climate/ETS/CCC work - please break down by division, and a separate breakdown by salary.

The Ministry will release this information to you, however, we have been unable to collate this information in the timeframe required for this response. We will provide this information to you without undue delay and no later than 28 March 2024.

What % of non-field staff and what % of non-field salary cost does the previous answer represent? Please provide the denominators as well.

As the government's advisor on environmental matters, the Ministry is a policy agency and does not employ "field staff".

How many enquiries are received each year for the last 2 years regarding climate policies (OIA vs others)?

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Please provide a list of partners/suppliers/universities/etc MfE uses to review published climate papers and offer advice on climate/IPCC issues. Please provide the total spent excluding GST for each of the last 3 calendar years. Where it is hard to identify invoices, then please identify expenditure by climate focussed divisions with external parties. Where expenditure is with a university then please identify the school (eg Physics, Mathematics, Botany).

It is not the role of the Ministry to refute or advocate scientific papers. The Ministry accepts the knowledge of the global scientific consensus on climate change summarised by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and uses this knowledge to inform policy decision making.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Office of the Ombudsman of my decisions 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



Danielle Ryan
Manager, Ministerial Services