

Hon Andrew Hoggard

Minister for Biosecurity
Minister for Food Safety
Associate Minister of Agriculture (Animal Welfare, Skills)
Associate Minister for the Environment



OIA104

Anna Wilson
fyi-request-29942-81679bf1@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Anna

Thank you for your email of 31 January 2025 as a follow up to . Your request has been considered under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA).

You requested the following:

- *All internal correspondence sent and received within your office that relates to this request. (eg. emails between the Minister and staff, emails between political staff and private secretaries, texts between staff, etc)*
- *All correspondence sent and received between your office and MPI (eg. emails between MPI and your private secretaries, emails between MPI and the Minister, emails between MPI and political staff, texts between MPI and private secretaries, any briefings or draft responses that were prepared)*
- *In particular, I am interested in all correspondence between your office and MPI regarding the decision to transfer this request.*

Please find attached as Appendix One, all correspondence relating to your previous OIA request - OIA084 (MinOIA24-0295) for information relating to the total caulerpa coverage and spend.

Please note some information has been withheld in accordance with the following sections of the OIA:

- 9(2)(a) – *to protect the privacy of natural persons*
- 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*
- Some information has been removed as Out of Scope as it is not relevant to your request.

As noted above, some information has been withheld under section 9(2)(g)(i) of the OIA. According to [guidance from the Office of the Ombudsman](#) (pg. 21-22), comments made during the decision making process on OIA requests may be withheld under section 9(2)(g)(i), so as not to inhibit officials from expressing or recording free and frank advice on OIA requests in the future.

In accordance with section 9(1) of the OIA, my Office have considered whether there is a public interest reason to release this information that would outweigh the reason to withhold. My Office is satisfied that, in the circumstances of this case, the withholding of the information is not outweighed by other considerations which render it desirable in the public interest to make the information available.

You are advised of your right to raise any concerns with the Office of the Ombudsman. You can contact the Ombudsman at info@ombudsman.parliament.nz.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'A. Hoggard', with a long, sweeping flourish extending upwards and to the right.

Hon Andrew Hoggard
Minister for Biosecurity