



28 October 2025

OIAD-1775

Wendy McGuinness
Chief Executive – McGuinness Institute
[REDACTED]

Tēnā koe Wendy

Thank you for your email of 29 September 2025 requesting the following under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) of the Ministry for the Environment (the Ministry):

- 1. Can you provide a list of all papers from 1 January 2025, with links. We will use this information to update our table.
We have come across a recent article published by RNZ about a Cabinet paper that was redacted retrospectively after being unintentionally released. The article can be found [here](#). To this end:*
- 2. Could you provide a copy of the redacted memo/Cabinet paper that is mentioned in the RNZ article? Or, if proactively released, could you provide a link?
This article also discussed the purchase of off-shore carbon credits to meet New Zealand's NDCs. Given this, we would appreciate answers to the following three questions:*
- 3. Has the government undertaken any purchases of off-shore carbon credits to date?*
- 4. Has the government budgeted to purchase off-shore carbon credits in the next 12 months?*
- 5. Has Minister Watts/Cabinet made any decisions on whether to buy help offshore carbon credits or has this government ruled it out (see Minister Watts response in the RNZ article).*

As you are aware, the Ministry contacted you to advise that the links to the Cabinet papers and minutes you requested in the first part of your request are publicly available on the Ministry's website, and the publication dates are on the respective landing pages. This information can be found by navigating to: <https://environment.govt.nz/what-government-is-doing/cabinet-papers-and-regulatory-impact-statements/>. On 13 October 2025, Greta Balfour, Research Analyst, confirmed on behalf of the McGuinness Institute that no further information was being sought in relation to this part of the request.

Regarding the second part of your request, the requested document 'BRF-4279 - New Zealand's NDC commitment - timeline implications and opportunities' is publicly available on the Ministry's website at: <https://environment.govt.nz/assets/Amended-25-August-REDACTED-BRF-4279-New-Zealands-NDC-committment-timeline-implications-and-opportunities.pdf>. We are also providing a copy of this document to you.

Some information within this document is withheld under the following sections of the Act:

- 6(a) the making available of that information would be likely to prejudice the security or defence of New Zealand or the international relations of the Government of New Zealand.
- 6(b)(i) the making available of that information would be likely to prejudice the entrusting of information to the Government of New Zealand on a basis of confidence by the Government of any other country or any agency of such a Government.
- 6(b)(ii) the making available of that information would be likely to prejudice the entrusting of information to the Government of New Zealand on a basis of confidence by any international organisation.
- 9(2)(f)(iv) the withholding of the information is necessary 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) the withholding of the information is necessary 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.
- 9(2)(h) the withholding of the information is necessary to maintain legal professional privilege.
- 9(2)(j) the withholding of the information is necessary to enable a Minister of the Crown or any public service agency or organisation holding the information to carry out, without prejudice or disadvantage, commercial activities.

Regarding the third part of your request, the Government has not undertaken any purchases of offshore carbon credits to date.

Regarding the fourth part of your request, the Government has not budgeted to purchase offshore carbon credits in the next 12 months. There is no appropriation or allocation within the current financial year for the purchase of offshore carbon credits.

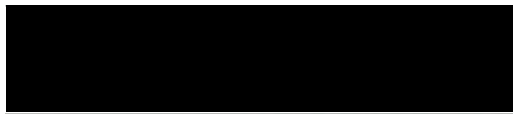
Regarding the fifth part of your request, to date, the Minister of Climate Change, Hon Simon Watts, and Cabinet have not made any formal decisions on whether to buy offshore carbon credits. The Government continues to prioritise domestic action to help achieve the first Nationally Determined Contribution. It is exploring all available options to deliver New Zealand's commitment. This includes exploring options for collaboration with other countries in the context of Article 6 of the Paris Agreement which is part of a broader ongoing bilateral dialogue with several partner countries.

In terms of section 9(1) of the Act, I am satisfied that, in the circumstances, the withholding of information in this request 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 decisions relating to this request, in accordance with section 28(3) of the Act. The relevant details can be found at: www.ombudsman.parliament.nz.

Please note that due to the public interest in our work, the Ministry publishes responses to requests for official information shortly after the response has been sent on our website at: <https://environment.govt.nz/about-us/official-information-act-requests/>. If you have any queries about this, please feel free to contact our Ministerial Services team at: ministerials@mfe.govt.nz.

Nāku noa, nā




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