

11 June 2025

Wendy McGuinness  
Chief Executive  
McGuinness Institute Te Hononga Waka

By email: [REDACTED]

Tēnā koe Wendy

**Official Information Act (OIA) request: Sea-surface temperature data to 2024**

On 27 May 2025, you contacted Stats NZ requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), the following information:

- *“The Institute is wanting to do some more work in this space and we wondered if you could provide a detailed excel showing the temperatures over each year for each area in New Zealand, ideally from 1982 to the end of 2024.*

*We found the attached CSV file here: <https://www.stats.govt.nz/indicators/sea-surface-temperature-data-to-2023/>*

*We are also interested in knowing the method that is used to prepare this data (e.g. who does what, when and where to collect this data). We would like to add the method to our working paper.”*

Your request for sea-surface temperature data to 2024 is refused under section 18(g) of the Act on the basis that the information requested is not held by Stats NZ. While Stats NZ have published sea-surface temperature data to 2023, we do not hold sea-surface temperature data for the period requested nor do we intend to publish that data in the near future.

The [Sea-surface temperature: data to 2023](#) indicator webpage that you mention in your request includes a link to a technical report that details the methodology we used, which I am also providing here: [Monitoring ocean health: 2023 update on satellite indicators for surface temperature, productivity and suspended solids](#). As such, your request for information about the method that is used to prepare this indicator is refused under section 18(d) of the Act, as this information is publicly available on our website.

In addition to the csv file you provided in your request, there is another downloadable csv file on the [Sea-surface temperature: data to 2023](#) indicator webpage, under the figure “Annual oceanic sea-surface temperature anomaly (°C) against a 1991–2020 reference period, 1982–2023, containing annual average sea-temperatures (and annual anomalies against a 1991–2020 reference period) for each of the four oceanic regions (Chatham Rise, Subantarctic water,

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Tasman Sea, and Subtropical water)”, which may be of interest. In the spirit of the Act, I have appended that dataset to this response.

Should you have any questions about how to access or interpret the data you seek, please contact Stats NZ’s Information Centre through one of the following methods:

- By phone – 0508 525 525
- By email – [info@stats.govt.nz](mailto:info@stats.govt.nz)
- [Online form](#)

We note that Stats NZ’s Information Centre is often the best place to start seeking statistical information, as the Information Centre exists to help users find the statistical information they are looking for. Stats NZ’s Information Centre can let you know what data Stats NZ can provide and show you how to find it. This service is free and often results in a same day response.

Should you wish to discuss this response with us, please feel free to contact Stats NZ at: [OfficeoftheGSCE@stats.govt.nz](mailto:OfficeoftheGSCE@stats.govt.nz).

If you are not satisfied with this response, you have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman. Information about how to make a complaint is available at [www.ombudsman.parliament.nz](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz) or 0800 802 602.

It is Stats NZ’s policy to proactively release its responses to official information requests where possible. This letter, with your personal details removed, will be published on the Stats NZ website. Publishing responses creates greater openness and transparency of government decision-making and helps better inform public understanding of the reasons for decisions.

Nāku noa, nā



[stats.govt.nz](http://stats.govt.nz)