

4 December 2024

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OIA 29802

Thank you for your email of 6 November 2024 in which you request the following under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA):

"This is a request for official information under the Official Information Act 1982 in relation to carbon neutral public service targets.

We request the following information:

- 1. Is your agencies continuing to pursue the carbon neutral public service targets? If so please provide any documents showing how this is being implemented*
- 2. The total spend on this target broken down by year since the targets were implemented (including but not limited to internal staff numbers, external spend, capital spend, offset spend)?*
- 3. Total EV's brought since the targets were implemented broken down by year? Please provide notes on type of car.*
- 4. Total spent on agency emissions inventories by year since implementation. Please provide the most recent inventory.*
- 5. How much is spent on voluntary carbon offsets? (Not the ETS). Please provide information on consultants for this and the total offsets.*
- 6. Any consideration or actions involving Agricultural emissions."*

A response to each part of your request is set out below.

Please note the following interpretations of your request have been made in order to provide a response:

- Where your request references "the carbon neutral public service targets", this is interpreted to be the 2025 and 2030 -1.5°C aligned emissions reduction targets set by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade's (the Ministry).
- Where your request references "targets were implemented", this is interpreted to be December 2022, the date that the Ministry's Emission Reduction Plan which outlines the Ministry's targets was approved:
<https://www.mfat.govt.nz/assets/About-us-Corporate/Emission-Reduction-Plan-FINAL-Dec-2022.pdf>

1. Is your agencies continuing to pursue the carbon neutral public service targets? If so please provide any documents showing how this is being implemented

The Ministry is continuing to pursue the 2025 and 2030 -1.5°C aligned emissions reduction targets, as Carbon Neutral Government Programme requirements are extant. Information about the Ministry’s implementation of the CNGP can be found in the Ministry’s 2023/24 Annual Report (see pages 100-102):

<https://www.mfat.govt.nz/assets/About-us-Corporate/MFAT-corporate-publications/MFAT-Annual-Report-2023-24/MFAT-Annual-Report-2023-24.pdf>

Accordingly, this part of your request is refused under section 18(d) of the OIA, as the information is publicly available.

2. The total spend on this target broken down by year since the targets were implemented (including but not limited to internal staff numbers, external spend, capital spend, offset spend)?

The total spend from the date the targets in the Ministry’s Emission Reduction Plan were approved by the Ministry’s Board, December 2022, is outlined in the table below.

Total spend on the Carbon Neutral Government Programme broken down by financial year.		
Financial Year	Total spend NZD	What the spend covers
2021-22	\$153,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Staff resourcing (1.0 FTE – existing staff member redeployed to lead programme implementation); and - Services for audit and verification of the Ministry’s emissions inventory.
2022-23	\$330,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Staff resourcing (1.2 FTE – existing staff member redeployed to lead programme implementation and a part-time contractor to provide energy expertise); - auditing and verification services; and - consultant to examine methods to measure emissions from the development cooperation programme.
2023-24	\$205,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Staff resourcing (same as 2022-23); and - auditing and verification services.

Any capital or other investments made in emissions reduction initiatives (e.g. the purchase of Electric Vehicles (EVs); energy efficiency measures; etc) are made using existing budget lines (e.g. minor capital works), and therefore are not included in the above breakdown.

3. Total EV’s brought since the targets were implemented broken down by year? Please provide notes on type of car.

Information on EVs the Ministry has purchased since the CNGP started in 2020 is outlined in the table below. The Ministry does not have an onshore fleet; all vehicles are

offshore. Lower-emissions vehicles are purchased when vehicles are up for replacement and where market and local conditions are appropriate.

Total EVs purchased since the beginning of the Carbon Neutral Government Programme broken down by financial year.		
Year in service	Type of car	Number of cars
2021	Volkswagen ID4	1
2023	Volkswagen ID4	1
2023	Tesla Model Y	1

4. Total spent on agency emissions inventories by year since implementation. Please provide the most recent inventory.

We have interpreted this part of your request to be for organisational expenditure on preparing, verifying, and reporting of the Ministry's emissions inventory each year.

The response to part two of your request sets out the total spend on the CNGP.

5. How much is spent on voluntary carbon offsets? (Not the ETS). Please provide information on consultants for this and the total offsets.

There have been no Ministry expenditures on voluntary carbon offsets. Accordingly, this part of your request is refused under section 18(e) of the OIA, as the information requested does not exist.

6. Any consideration or actions involving Agricultural emissions.

The Ministry does not have organisational or CNGP activities related to agricultural emissions. Accordingly, this part of your request is refused under section 18(e) of the OIA, as the information requested does not exist.

Please note that it is our policy to proactively release our responses to official information requests where possible. Therefore, our response to your request (with your personal information removed) may be published on the Ministry website: www.mfat.govt.nz/en/about-us/contact-us/official-information-act-responses/

If you have any questions about this decision, you can contact us by email at: DM-ESD@mfat.govt.nz. You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this decision by contacting www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or freephone 0800 802 602.

Nāku noa, nā



Sarah Corbett
for Secretary of Foreign Affairs and Trade