



Chris McCashin
fyi-request-23935-c4f9c009@requests.fyi.org.nz

Tēnā koe Chris

Thank you for your request of 18 October 2023 under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) for the following:

Please provide the most recent report completed by the Government and their individual agencies that have funding in excess of \$20m that report on:

- *How the agency tackles exploitation risks in their operations and supply chains*
- *Specifically looking for supply chains relating to individual agencies and electric cars*
- *Specifically looking for supply chains relating to individual agencies and mobile phones*
- *Specifically looking for supply chains for any products the government buys in bulk that require rare earth minerals mined in third world countries contributing to modern slavery.*

The Ministry for the Environment (the Ministry) has no formal report on tackling exploitation risks in operations and supply chains, as the majority of our spend relates to services, rather than goods. I must therefore refuse your request under section 18(e) of the Act, as the document requested does not exist. However, I have provided some information about ways in which the Ministry manages risk to its operations and supply chains below.

The Ministry's Procurement Policy includes reference to Supplier Ethics and Code of Conduct and Office of the Auditor-General Good Practice guidance, which both touch on labour and human rights. This Code of Conduct is also included as a Clause to comply with in the majority of contracts with suppliers. The Ministry does not currently buy products in bulk that require rare earth minerals mined in third world countries contributing to modern slavery. We also do not use electrical cars outside of the All of Government Agreement(s).

The Ministry purchases mobile phones through Spark NZ. Spark opted out of supplying mobile phones under the AoG IT hardware agreement, which is why the Ministry does not use an AOG Agreement to make these purchases. Instead, we purchase mobile phones which are on the Spark Digital Terms, on an ad hoc basis through the use of Purchase Orders. The Ministry relies on the fact that Spark is an AoG IT Hardware panellist and has passed rigorous due diligence (including that around Broader Outcomes) for the hardware they supply under that agreement. Spark issued a Modern Slavery Statement in 2022 and Sparks' suppliers sign a Supplier Code of Conduct that includes Labour and Human Rights standards. There are no specific protections in the contract terms between the Ministry and Spark Digital for exploitation risks in the supply chains for mobile phones.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Office of the Ombudsman of my decision to withhold information 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 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.

Ngā mihi

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'AK', with a long horizontal line extending to the right and a vertical line extending downwards from the end of that line.

Alice King
Director – Operations
Ministry for the Environment | Manatū Mō Te Taiao