

Hon Simon Watts

Minister of Climate Change
Minister of Revenue



10 May 2024

Suze Keith
fyi-request-26418-7d99173c@requests.fyi.org.nz

MOIA043-24

Dear Suze,

I write to respond to your request dated 11 April 2024 requesting the following information under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

Could you please tell me the cost of:

- a. setting up and operating the independent expert panel to review the methane targets, and,*
- b. the annual cost of operating the Climate Change Commission.*

The Methane Science and Target Review's independent expert panel is intended to be set up as a Ministerial Advisory Group. The costs of setting up and operating the Advisory Group have not yet been finalised. The remuneration for all Advisory Group appointments will be based on the Cabinet Fees Framework. Therefore, I am refusing the first part of your request under section 18(g) of the Act, as no information requested is held and I have no grounds to believe it is held by another agency.

The annual cost of operating the Climate Change Commission (the Commission) is contained in its Annual Reports. The Commission's forecast financial statements for 2023/24 are contained in its 2023/24 Statement of Performance Expectations. Therefore, I am refusing the second part of your request under section 18(d) of the Act, as the information requested is publicly available.

These documents are publicly available on the Commission's website:
<https://www.climatecommission.govt.nz/who-we-are/corporate-publications/>

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 contact my office if you have any queries about this response.

Private Bag 18041, Parliament Buildings, Wellington 6160
s.watts@ministers.govt.nz

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of several overlapping, fluid strokes that form a stylized representation of the name 'Simon Watts'.

Hon Simon Watts
Minister of Climate Change