

ENQ-39426-Q8N3N8

27 August 2020

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Via: ██████████@touchdownconsulting.com

Official Information Act Request

Dear ██████████

I refer to your request received on 31 July 2020, for the following information:

“A copy of all Methyl Bromide Annual Reporting Forms (spreadsheets) that were submitted to the EPA in 2019 and 2020 under the Ozone Layer Protection Act. (For clarity, a blank version of the relevant methyl bromide reporting form is available at the end of this EPA webpage: <https://www.epa.govt.nz/industry-areas/hazardous-substances/ozone-depleting-substances/new-zealreporting-on-ozone-depleting-substances/>)”

Your request has been treated as a request for information under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA).

In your request, you stated that the names and contact details of the companies that submitted the reports may be removed. In view of this, and given that the person who provided this information has requested that the names and contact details of the companies be withheld, we have redacted this information from the following document:

- Ozone-Layer-Protection-Act-1996-Annual-Reporting-Form 20(1).docx.

This information is being withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the OIA to protect the privacy of persons not employed by the EPA.

In the same document, in the table under “3. *Montreal Protocol Annex E. Report.*” the EPA permit numbers have been redacted under section 9(2)(k) of the OIA to prevent the disclosure or use of official information for improper gain or improper advantage.

I do not consider that, in the circumstances of this particular case, the withholding of this information is outweighed by other considerations which render it desirable, in the public interest, to make the information available.

The following document has been released in full:

- Ozone-Layer-Protection-Act-1996-Methyl-Bromide-Annual-Reporting-Form.xlsx

The two reporting forms attached to this letter are the only documents of this type held by the EPA, as not all participants have complied with their reporting obligations. The EPA is currently following up this as a compliance matter, and will release the information to you when it becomes available.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review of this decision by the Ombudsman. You can contact the Ombudsman on 0800 802 602, or by email at info@ombudsman.parliament.nz.

If you have any further queries, please do not hesitate to contact us via ministerials@epa.govt.nz.

We will publish your request and our response on our website, www.epa.govt.nz, within 10 working days from today. We make OIA responses available so others can read more about the work we do and the questions we are asked. Any information that might identify you will be removed to protect your privacy.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C Ehlers', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Dr Clark Ehlers
Acting General Manager
Hazardous Substances and New Organisms