

Official Information Act Request

Requester's details

Date: 24 August 2021

Name: [REDACTED]

Organisation: [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

Reference number: ENQ-42230-Y8F5N8

Tēnā koe e [REDACTED]

Thank you for your request received on 28 July 2021 for the following information:

1. The total number of ETS units voluntarily cancelled per year. The most recent years for which information is available would be most useful to us – so if possible the past 3-4 years?
2. The number of people who voluntarily cancelled units each year across that 3-4 year period.
3. For each year over the 3-4 year period, the amount of cancelled units that were NZUs and the amount that were other overseas units.
4. The number of NZAAUs cancelled each year over the 3-4 year period (our understanding of the voluntary carbon offsetting process is that to avoid double claiming a business must cancel a NZU by transferring it into the Crown cancellation account, and that NZU is then replaced with a NZAAU which is also cancelled – the Kyoto Voluntary Cancellation Workflow).

We subsequently clarified with you that by “the past 3-4 years”, you responded advising that you would like information for the number of unit cancellations that have occurred in 2021 (so far), 2020, 2019 and 2018.

The information you have requested in Questions 1 and 3 is answered in Table 1, Question 2 is answered in Table 2, and Question 4 is answered in Table 3.

Table 1: Total number of Units voluntarily cancelled each year (split up in NZ AAUs*, Overseas AAUs, ERUs and NZUs)

From 1 January 2018 up to 31 July 2021

<i>Kyoto Voluntary cancellations**</i>	2018	2019	2020	2021	<i>Grand Total</i>
AAU (NZ origin)	52384	89912	187220	90463	419979
AAU (Overseas origin)	-	-	2566342	-	2566342
ERU (Overseas origin)	1	3154698	2923024	-	6077723

<i>NZ Voluntary cancellations</i>	2018	2019	2020	2021	<i>Grand Total</i>
NZU	4694	8181	1411	252	14538

Grand Total	57079	3252791	5677997	90715	9078582
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* The total number of NZ AAUs cancelled includes the number of NZ AAUs that were part of a NZU > NZ AAU conversion for subsequent cancellation.*

** When businesses or people cancel their NZUs as part of a Kyoto Voluntary cancellation, the NZUs get transferred to the Crown Conversion account and replaced by crown held NZAAUs that are subsequently cancelled. This is to avoid double counting of the units against an international target and as a voluntary carbon offset. This voluntary offsetting is able to be used until 31 December 2021 as per the guidance published on the Ministry for the Environment's [website](#).

Table 2: Total number of people who voluntarily cancelled units per year

Please note that this table denotes the number of people who cancelled units per year, but not the total number of cancellation transactions per year. Some people make more than one voluntary cancellation per year.

<i>Year</i>	<i>Number of people voluntarily cancelling units</i>
2018	10
2019	13
2020	15
2021	10
Grand Total	48

Table 3: Total number of NZAAUs cancelled per year as part of a Kyoto voluntary cancellation

<i>Year</i>	<i>Cancelled NZAAUs (directly)</i>	<i>Cancelled NZAAUs (as part of NZU > NZAAU conversion)</i>
2018	34928	17456
2019	42411	47501
2020	51040	136180
2021	0	90463
Grand Total	128379	291600

Since 30 November 2020 NZAAUs can no longer be held in private accounts.

(On 30 November 2020 all privately held Kyoto units from the first commitment period were cancelled and all privately held NZAAUs were replaced by NZUs.)

I trust this information fully answers your questions.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this decision.

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 may publish your request and our response on our website, www.epa.govt.nz. 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.

Nāku noa nā



Michelle Ward

General Manager, Climate, Land and Oceans