

Official Information Act Request

Requester's details

Date: 25 May 2022

Name: [REDACTED]

Organisation: [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

Reference number: ENQ-4833-L0L2W5

Dear [REDACTED]

I refer to your request, which we received on 27 April 2022, for the following information:

“The total mass in kg of synthetic greenhouse gases imported into, and exported from, New Zealand, on an annual basis, from 1 July 2012 to 30 June 2021?”

Unfortunately, a complete answer to the information you have requested does not exist in the format you have asked for. In this regard, we would be interested in learning more about the information you were previously provided, as we have been unable to locate a record of this having been released.

While we have some information that has been provided to us that reports on the import and export of synthetic greenhouse gases, it does not all neatly fit the parameters you have requested. Also, we can only report on information that has actually been declared to us.

Our [Synthetic Greenhouse Gas Levy Report](#) provides comprehensive data relating to the import of synthetic greenhouse gases. Each quarter we publish updated information on the activities relating to the synthetic greenhouse gas levy. Since 2013, importers of hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs) and perfluorocarbons (PFCs) contained in goods and motor vehicles have faced a carbon price through a levy. The levy is linked to the price of carbon and is updated annually by the Ministry for the Environment to reflect prevailing Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS) costs.

The Goods Levy pg1 tab of this report lists the quantity of synthetic greenhouse gases treated as contained in leviable goods per kg, while the Goods Levy pg2 tab of this report lists synthetic greenhouse gas levies on different classes of imported goods. Both of these tabs provide information dating back to the first quarter of 2013/2014.

Further information about ETS obligations in relation to [synthetic greenhouse gases](#) may be found on our website.

The [Participant Emissions Report](#) from October 2021 provides some background information to this, which may be of interest. People who directly import synthetic

greenhouse gases in bulk are mandatory participants in the ETS under the industrial processes sector. Those who import goods and motor vehicles that contain synthetic greenhouse gases are not participants in the ETS, but instead pay for the cost of the greenhouse gas impact of these synthetic gases via the levy referred to above.

Participants who produce goods with embedded substances may submit an emissions return to the EPA relating to that product each quarter to claim an entitlement of units for the removal. This data is contained in the 2021 ETS Participant Report. As this is a voluntary activity we cannot say whether all producers of these products report those removals to the EPA, so the data may not be a complete set of participants/removals.

In addition to the ETS, some synthetic greenhouse gases such as hydrochlorofluorocarbons (HCFCs) and HFCs are regulated under the Ozone Layer Protection Act (1996), and these are reported on an annual basis to the [United Nations Environment Programme Ozone Secretariat](#). While this information only pertains to certain gases, it may be of interest to you. Please note this information is reported by calendar year, not financial year, and that the 2021 information has not yet been finalised.

Finally, [New Zealand's Greenhouse Gas Inventory](#) report for 1990-2019, which was published by the Ministry for the Environment, provides comprehensive information on New Zealand fulfilling its reporting requirements under the United Nations Framework on Climate Change and the Kyoto Protocol. This may be of interest.

I hope this information is helpful. 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.

Yours sincerely



Michelle Ward
General Manager, Climate, Land and Oceans