

Official Information Act Request

Requester's details

Date: 27 April 2021

Name: [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]@massey.ac.nz

Reference number: ENQ-41221-M8B5G7

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your request received on 29 March 2021 for the following information:

1. "Does your organisation have a policy or guidelines in relation to charging requestors for supplying information under the Official Information Act 1982?"
2. If yes, please supply a written copy of the policy/guideline, including grounds for seeking costs for supplying information, charges for photocopying, scanning or other copying of information and the hourly rate for staff time in compiling requests?"
3. If not, what does your organisation charge for photocopying, scanning or other copying of information and what is the hourly rate for staff time in compiling requests?"

In the 12 months from 01 January 2020 to December 31, 2020:

4. How many requests for information under the Official Information Act did your organisation receive?
5. Of these, in how many was the requestor advised that they would incur charges for copying and staff time, or any other reason?
6. In how many of these, did the requestor pay the required charge for supplying of information?
7. In total, how much did your organisation receive in payments for supplying information under the OIA?
8. What were the largest 10 amounts paid by requestors in charges for fulfilling OIA requests?"

Questions 1 to 3

The Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) is in the final stages of approving an updated Information Sharing policy. A charging policy for requests under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA) is part of this update. The charging policy relies upon the Ministry of Justice charging guidelines and Ombudsman's advice. The charging policy will soon be published on our website. We are therefore refusing this part of your request under section 18(d) of the

OIA because the information will soon be publically available. We will advise you once the policy has been published.

Prior to the introduction of the policy, the EPA had not charged for OIA requests but our OIA webpage advised the public that we may charge for requests that took a lot of time finding, gathering and preparing information for release and that any charge would be communicated to them to ensure they wanted to continue with the request. We are committed to the principle of availability in the OIA and our own open book policy of proactively publishing and endeavour to refine the scope of requests that require substantial research and collation instead of refusing them under section 18(f) of the OIA.

Questions 4 to 8

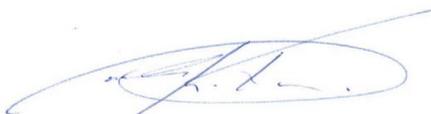
The EPA received 89 OIA requests in 2020. We did not charge for any of these requests and none of the requesters were advised of any charge for information. As a result no requesters incurred a charge and we did not received any payments for supplying information under the OIA.

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 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



Paula Knaap
General Manager,
Engagement