



24 February 2023

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§ 9(2)(a)

By email: § 9(2)(a)
Ref: H2023020011

Tēnā koe § 9(2)(a)

Response to your request for official information

Thank you for your request under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) to Manatū Hauora (the Ministry of Health) on 9 February 2023 for information regarding climate change, greenhouse gas emissions and global warming. You requested:

"...Information pertaining to climate change, greenhouse gas emissions, and global warming that you provided to ministers in BIMS between the time of Prime Minister Hipkins announced a reshuffle and today's date. For clarity, I am not interested in your complete BIM that you provided to ministers just said section/s about the topics mentioned above"

Information relating to your request is not contained in the Briefing to the Incoming Minister of Health. Therefore, your request is refused under section 18(e) of the Act, as the information does not exist.

However, information within scope of your request is contained in a broader piece of work that provided high-level updates to the Minister of Health on some key work programmes. This information is appended to this letter, with excerpts released under section 16(1)(e) of the Act. Information deemed out of scope of the request has been excluded.

Under section 28(3) of the Act, you have the right to ask the Ombudsman to review any decisions made under this request. The Ombudsman may be contacted by email at: info@ombudsman.parliament.nz or by calling 0800 802 602.

Please note that this response, with your personal details removed, may be published on the Manatū Hauora website at: www.health.govt.nz/about-ministry/information-releases/responses-official-information-act-requests.

Nāku noa, nā



Celia Wellington
Deputy Director-General
Corporate Services | Te Pou Tiaki

Out of Scope

Communicable disease intelligence

Key messages

- Following the health reforms of 1 July 2022, intelligence capability and communicable disease functions are now centralised within the Intelligence, Surveillance and Knowledge group (ISK) of the Public Health Agency (PHA). Work is ongoing to scope the enduring intelligence function for communicable and non-communicable diseases, in line with strategic and Ministerial priorities, and in relation to the roles of other entities, especially the National Public Health Service (NPHS).
- The PHA ISK's functions will differ from the NPHS Intelligence team who are focused on operational intelligence whereas the PHA ISK is focused on strategic intelligence.

Out of Scope

Issues and risks

- Climate change will impact communicable diseases in a number of ways. Warming temperatures increase the likelihood of the arrival and establishment of mosquitoes and other insects capable of spreading diseases in New Zealand. Rising temperatures may also increase the risk of waterborne diseases and foodborne diseases.

Out of Scope

Out of Scope

- The Ministry's early analysis the Pae Ora Act and recent government engagement has highlighted the following potential areas for enhancement in the interim Hauora Māori Strategy [H2022017436 refers]:

Out of Scope

- Driving collective progress to address the wider determinants of health – strengthening our contributions to and learning from current cross-government priorities, particularly poverty reduction for tamariki Māori; rangatahi leadership and mental wellbeing; and the impacts of climate change.

Out of Scope

Carbon neutral plan

Key messages

- Manatū Hauora (the Ministry) met the first reporting deadline for the Carbon Neutral Programme (CNGP) in December 2021 with its baseline emissions Inventory. This was followed up in December 2022 with its most recent emission inventory. It will continue to report to the CNGP on an annual basis.
- The Ministry is committed to meeting the CNGP emissions reductions targets of 21% and 42% of its baseline emissions by 2025 and 2030 respectively. This work programme has also been identified in the Ministry's Business Plan for 2022/23 which reports quarterly to the Minister of Health.
- The Ministry's Greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in its base year were 1966 t-CO₂e. Based on the previously stated reduction targets this equates to a 2025 target of 1553 t-CO₂e and for 2030 a target of 1140 t-CO₂e.
- These targets have been set to assist New Zealand in achieving its goal of less than 1.5° temperature increase from pre-industrial times, in line with the Paris Agreement which was adopted by New Zealand in 2015.
- For the 2021/22 financial year the Ministry's total GHG emissions were 1344 t-CO₂e. This is a 32% reduction from our base year of 1966 t-CO₂e.
- The Ministry has developed a Carbon Emissions Reduction Plan (CERP) focussing on the top three emission sources, travel – being the most significant majority (e.g. fleet and air travel), followed by electricity and waste. The CERP sets out key initiatives, timeframes, and accountability. This was approved by our Operational Leadership Team in November 2022 and progress will be monitored and reported on a quarterly basis.
- At the CNGP Ministerial Group meeting on 9 November 2022, CNGP Ministers requested a deep dive into the health sector, to be presented at the next meeting. A date has yet to be confirmed, but is anticipated this will be held in March 2023. The Ministry has been working with Te Whatu Ora to develop a presentation that summarises the progress the health sector has made, work already underway, and next steps. Representatives from the Ministry and Te Whatu Ora will present at this meeting.

Issues and risks

- Reduction of some emission sources will require procurement of sustainable services and or capital investment. This will likely have financial implications.
- For the 2021/22 financial year, a number of emission sources including freight, waste and travel emissions reduced significantly due to the COVID-19 pandemic. As we return back to more

business-as usual and the need to engage face to face with our stakeholders, there is a likelihood we will see some of these emission sources increase for the 2022/23 financial year.

Upcoming milestones

- Deep Dive CNGP Ministers (joint presentation) – March (TBC) 2023
- CNGP Annual Reporting Requirements – July-August 2023

Out of Scope

RELEASED UNDER THE OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT 1982