

OIA Ref: 2022-020

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

15 November 2022

Tēnā koe [REDACTED]
scope

Thank you for your email of 21 October 2022 requesting under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

“Can you please forward any communications between 1 September 2022 and 19 October 2022:

- 1) Between your chief executive or other executive manager and your communications/media staff regarding how media queries are dealt with.*
 - 2) From the office of your relevant minister regarding how media queries are dealt with.*
- Please note this is a request for the entirety of any communications captured, not just any parts deemed "in scope".*

If there have been oral discussions that have not been documented, please briefly summarise what was said, and by whom”.

The Commission has been unable to identify any communications between its Chief Executive or other executive manager (which we are interpreting as anyone acting as Chief Executive) and the Commission’s Engagement and Communications team about how media queries should be dealt with during your given time period.

Similarly, there has been zero direction and/or conversations with the Minister’s Office about how media queries are dealt with that fall within scope of this request.

As such, we must refuse your request under section 18(e) of the Act, because the information requested does not exist.

It may interest you to know, however, that the Commission does not provide the Minister of Climate Change with copies of official information requests as a matter of course. Requests would only be provided under the “no surprises” approach if it was judged that the request would attract sufficient attention that the Minister could become involved. The Commission takes the same approach with media queries.

We have taken this approach since the Commission was established in December 2019, and our policy has not changed since then. It is also consistent with the guidance set out in Paragraph 3.22 of the Cabinet

Manual, which you can read on the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet's website, at: <https://dpmc.govt.nz/our-business-units/cabinet-office/supporting-work-cabinet/cabinet-manual/3-ministers-crown-and-2>

Further, the Commission applies the same policy and process in responding to all official information requests, and all media requests, regardless of the requestor's affiliations.

I hope this has been helpful, however, you still have the right to seek an investigation and review of our response by the Office of the Ombudsman in accordance with section 28(3) of the Act. The relevant details can be found on their website at: www.ombudsman.parliament.nz

Please note that the Commission has a policy of proactive release of OIA responses to help others have access to more information. As a result, this letter will shortly be published on the website with your name and contact details redacted to protect your privacy.

Ngā mihi



Grant Blackwell
Acting General Manager, Strategy, Planning and Engagement
Climate Change Commission