



Jodie Bruning
jodie@bruning.net.nz

22 September 2026

Kia ora Jodie,

Thank you for your email received by the Ministry of Cities, Environment, Regions, and Transport (the Ministry) on 29 September 2026, requesting information under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) about data centres.

On 9 September 2026, we emailed you to seek refinement of Part A-5 of your request as it related to correspondence. We noted that an initial search of the Ministry's email archive identified 300 emails as potentially being in scope based on selected keywords and other targeted parameters and that to individually assess 300+ emails against the scope of this part of the request and prepare an unknown number of them for release would likely interfere with the normal operations of the Ministry. We did not receive a response to this email.

On 10 September 2026, the Ministry transferred Part A of your request as it related to the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet (DPMC) to DPMC for response under section 14(b)(ii) of the Act as the information requested is more closely connected with its functions.

On 15 and 16 September 2026, the Ministry transferred Part B of your request to Environment Southland, Invercargill City Council, and Southland District Council as it related to their respective responsibilities for response under section 14(b)(ii) of the Act as the information requested is more closely connected with their functions.

I am refusing Part A-5 of your request in full under section 18(f) of the Act, as the information requested cannot be made available without substantial collation or research.

I have identified one document in scope of the remainder of Part A of your request, titled: "Memorandum: Data centres in NZ", dated 23 July 2026.

I am releasing this document to you in part, with some information withheld under section 9(2)(f)(iv) of the Act to maintain the constitutional conventions for the time being which protect the confidentiality of advice tendered by Ministers of the Crown and officials.

I am refusing Part B of your request under section 18(e) of the Act as that the document alleged to contain the information requested does not exist in the Ministry's records or, despite reasonable efforts to locate it, cannot be found.

In the application of the section 9 grounds listed above, we have considered the countervailing public interest in the release of the information proposed to be withheld, as per section 9(1) of the Act. We consider that the public interest does not outweigh the need to withhold at this time.

You may be interested in information published by local authorities about the Datagrid project, which can be found at the following links:

- <https://www.es.govt.nz/about-us/news?item=id:2xhpahbzw17q9s3f3x4z>
- <https://www.icc.govt.nz/council/official-information-request/proactive-releases>
- <https://www.southlanddc.govt.nz/home-and-property/resource-consents/proposals-of-public-interest/>

If you would like to discuss this decision with us, please do not hesitate to contact us at OIA@mcert.govt.nz.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review of this response by the Ombudsman, in accordance with section 28(3) of the Act. The relevant details can be found on the Ombudsman's website www.ombudsman.parliament.nz.

Please note that due to the public interest in its work, the Ministry publishes its responses to requests under the Act on its website. Before publishing your request we will remove any personal or identifiable information.

Ngā mihi

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a large, stylized loop followed by a horizontal stroke.

Jessica Ranger

General Manager – Urban and Infrastructure

Ministry for Cities, Environment, Regions, and Transport