



27 July 2020



Dear [REDACTED]

Official Information Request
Our Ref: SSCOIA 2020/0058

I refer to your official information request received on 7 July 2020 where you have asked:

1. *What was the agency's total greenhouse gas footprint in the most recent year in which records exist (if such records exist)? Please provide a breakdown of those emissions if they are available.*
2. *Does the agency have a policy of requiring employees and/or contractors to offset work-related emissions, eg domestic or international flights?*
3. *Does the agency have an emissions reduction plan, or emissions reduction targets, either in place or in development? If so, please provide details of the plan and/or targets.*

Information being released

In response to your request, the State Services Commission (SSC) does not hold records of its greenhouse gas footprint. We do not have a policy of requiring employees or contractors to offset work-related emissions and do not have an emissions reduction plan in place.

We are therefore refusing your request under section 18(e) of the Official Information Act on the grounds that the information requested does not exist.

However, we are committed to a transition to a low emissions economy and we have taken steps to reduce our footprint at the SSC. We have made recycling and composting options for waste materials available for staff, and where practicable eco-friendly options are used, such as lighting and cloud-based technology to minimise the use of energy intensive servers. We also promote the use of video conferencing for our staff to reduce travel and receive data from the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment on our domestic and international travel carbon emissions which enables us to track and measure the carbon created through air travel.

Additionally, the SSC diverted 4000kgs of surplus materials from landfill by donating these materials to the All Heart NZ Charitable Trust, items included desks, bookshelves, filing cabinets and other miscellaneous office supplies. This is a further example of the SSC's commitment to doing our part to enable New Zealand to meet its commitments on climate change.

If you wish to discuss this decision with us, please feel free to contact Ministerial.Services@ssc.govt.nz.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this decision. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or freephone 0800 802 602.

Please note that we intend to publish this letter (with your personal details removed) on the State Services Commission's website.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Nicky Dirks', is written over the text 'Yours sincerely'.

Nicky Dirks
Managing Principal – Ministerial Services
State Services Commission