




14 August 2020



Tēnā koe 

Thank you for your email of 7 July 2020 to the Ministry of Education requesting the following information:

- 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, e.g. 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.*

Your request has been considered under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act).

**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.**

The Ministry is currently setting up a process for measuring and reporting emissions, we hold some information on emissions but we do not have a record for our total greenhouse gas footprint at present. The information we currently hold has not been independently verified and that is a key step in reporting emissions. Therefore, I am refusing this part of your request under section 18(g) of the Act as total greenhouse gas emissions information is not held by the Ministry.

The Ministry runs one of the largest, government vehicle fleets with 565 vehicles and for the fourth quarter of the financial year 2019/20, the Ministry was ranked 15 out of 80 in the mandated government agencies average fleet emissions with an average of 140g/km per vehicle. You can find out more information on these results on the New Zealand Government Procurement website at: <https://www.procurement.govt.nz/broader-outcomes/reducing-emissions-and-waste/reducing-government-fleet-emissions/>.

**2. Does the agency have a policy of requiring employees and/or contractors to offset work-related emissions, eg domestic or international flights?**

The Ministry is working with its travel management provider, Orbit to establish a travel sustainability programme with a range of initiatives including: educating Ministry staff;

changing travel behaviours and reporting of emissions for the types of travel undertaken. The Ministry does not have a policy of requiring employees and/or contractors to offset work related emissions for 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.**

We are working to achieve government targets of reducing our vehicle fleet emissions by replacing our petrol driven vehicles with hybrid electric/petrol models, and introducing electric vehicles into our vehicle fleet.

We have sustainability targets as part of our travel management services provider contract and are looking into the emissions reporting available on our electricity use from our energy suppliers.

We will create an emissions reduction plan and set reduction targets once we have finalised our process for measuring and reporting emissions.

Please note, the Ministry now proactively publishes OIA responses on our website. As such, we may publish this response on our website after five working days. Your name and contact details will be removed.

Thank you again for your email. If you have further questions please feel free to contact our media team in the first instance at [media.team@education.govt.nz](mailto:media.team@education.govt.nz). If you are unsatisfied with my response, you have the right to ask an Ombudsman to review it. You can do this by writing to [info@ombudsman.parliament.nz](mailto:info@ombudsman.parliament.nz) or Office of the Ombudsman, PO Box 10152, Wellington 6143.

Nāku noa, nā



Zoe Griffiths  
**Deputy Secretary**  
**Business Enablement and Support**