



10 July 2020

[Redacted]

Reference: OIA-2020/21-0011

Dear [Redacted]

**Official Information Act request relating to greenhouse gas footprint and policies**

Thank you for your Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) request received on 7 July 2020. You requested:

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

Please find a link the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet's (DPMC's) emissions reduction plan:

<https://dpmc.govt.nz/publications/dpmc-emissions-reduction-plan-carbon-neutral-public-service-programme>

To provide some background to this plan, DPMC was one of the 28 stage-two core public service agencies that produced a carbon emissions inventory as part of the Carbon Neutral Public Service Programme, which was led by the Ministry for the Environment (MfE). The report was submitted to MfE in 2008, as part of this programme.

DPMC does not hold any further information relating to this programme and you may wish to direct any questions relating to its discontinuation to MfE as they are best placed to provide a response on this topic. Following this discontinuation, DPMC has not collated and retained records of this information.

For your information, please find below some further materials relating to the Carbon Neutral Public Service programme that are publically available:

- Quick overview: <https://www.beehive.govt.nz/release/carbon-neutral-public-service-programme-update>
- The programme, and so any targets associated with it, was discontinued in March 2009. You will find reference to this decision here: <https://www.beehive.govt.nz/release/government-committed-real-solutions-not-slogans>
- This evaluation of the programme: [http://media.cbsm.com/comments/169056/New\\_Zealand\\_Govt3\\_programme\\_lessons\\_earned\\_2003-2008.pdf](http://media.cbsm.com/comments/169056/New_Zealand_Govt3_programme_lessons_earned_2003-2008.pdf)

While DPMC has not yet developed a framework targeted specifically at our carbon footprint we continue to explore options and have utilised technology to encourage more effective and efficient ways of working. For example, integrating the use of Skype for Business, Microsoft Teams, and Surface Hubs across our different locations enables more regular online communication between remote sites and teams. This helps DPMC reduce costs, saves time for staff, and helps to reduce reliance on carbon-heavy activities such as air travel.

As mentioned above, MfE is the lead agency for the Government's work on this issue and will be responsible for informing the public on the Government's carbon emission reduction targets. For further information on the Government's work on reducing carbon emissions, I would encourage you to contact MfE at [info@mfe.govt.nz](mailto:info@mfe.govt.nz).

In making my decision, I have taken the public interest considerations in section 9(1) of the Act into account.

You have the right to ask the Ombudsman to investigate and review my decision under section 28(3) of the Act.

This response will be published on DPMC's website during our regular publication cycle. Typically, information is released monthly, or as otherwise determined. Your personal information including name and contact details will be removed for publication.

Yours sincerely



Clare Ward  
**Executive Director, Strategy, Governance and Engagement**