



Official Information request reference: 2021-018

23 March 2021

Email: [REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your Official Information Act request, received on 2 March 2021 for the following:

"Whose decision was it to play favourites? On what basis were the pet journos picked? Please provide a list of those, so we can see and assess the make up of them".

Considerable thought was put into how and when the draft advice would be provided to media. This recognised the public interest in the advice, and the importance of the media's role in providing accurate and balanced information. It also recognised the significance of the advice and the risk of material being shared before the release date.

In preparing to release the draft advice report to media, we looked at a number of factors:

- The breadth of the advice report. We wanted to give reporters enough time to understand the detail before the report was released to the public.
- The complexity of the report. We wanted to ensure accurate coverage that gave the public the detail they needed to understand the advice and consultation details.
- The market implications of the emissions budgets. We wanted to follow best practice to ensure market sensitive information was not shared.
- The risk of the report being leaked prior to its public release. Because of interest in the advice we worked to reduce this risk.

To help stakeholders, the public and media understand the role of the Commission, the issues we were considering, and the approach we took in developing our advice (including our modelling, analytical approach and work with te ao Māori), we ran a comprehensive pre-consultation engagement programme. Media were invited to attend sessions to build their understanding of the Commission, the process, and the approach. They were also offered individual briefings in the months after the Commission's establishment in December 2019.

We developed an approach to releasing the advice that considered the above. This was to provide a redacted, embargoed copy of the advice to a named group of reporters that represented a cross-section of media in advance, and to then make it available from 26 January to all media by working with the Science Media Centre.

Through discussions on this approach, the Chair of the Commission felt that enabling embargoed access to such a large number of people represented an unacceptable level of risk. The plan to release this information was subsequently amended, and the final release process was as follows:

- the Chair requested to see and approve a list of named reporters that met the following criteria: used to working under an embargo, have existing relationship with the Commission (reporter or outlet), have an understanding of climate change science.
- the redacted embargoed advice was available to the named reporters from Tuesday 26 January 2021.
- to receive it, the reporters were required to sign a non-disclosure agreement.

- the redacted, embargoed copy was provided as a downloadable copy to some reporters, others received a hardcopy.
- the embargo ended on Sunday 31 January 2021 at 2pm. The draft advice report was published on the Commission's website. A media release was issued earlier that day with a spreadsheet of emissions budget numbers.

The decisions on the release or amendment to the planning for release of the embargoed material were made by the Commission's Chair. This is reflected in the minutes for the Board meeting held on 19 January 2021. We intend to release all board minutes on a quarterly basis on the Commission's website. This means that the minutes in questions will be available around April 2021.

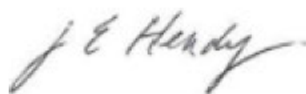
The table below lists the names of reporters who received redacted, embargoed copies of our advice on 26 January 2021.

Number	Name(s)	Organisation
1.	Eloise Gibson (and team: Olivia Wannan and Charlie Mitchell)	Stuff
2.	Kathryn Ryan and Clare Sziranyl	Radio NZ
3.	Marc Daadler	Newsroom
4.	Simon Wilson and Jamie Morton	NZ Herald
5.	Justin Giovanetti	Spinoff
6.	Gavin Evans and Patrick Smellie	Business Desk

I trust that the information provided fulfils your information request.

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

Kind regards



Jo Hendy
Chief Executive
Climate Change Commission