

Reference: 20240237

18 April 2024

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your Official Information Act (OIA) request, received on 28 March 2024. You requested:

*Could you please tell me what is happening with the Climate Emergency Response Fund? What projects will this now be funding under the current Government? I am not asking what projects have already had funding approved but what the criteria is going forwards. I would also like to know about any changes to the overall amount being allocated to the CERF.*

The Climate Emergency Response Fund (CERF) was established by the previous Government through the Budget 2022 process. The rationale for its establishment was to create a mechanism to recycle proceeds generated from the Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS) for climate purposes.

In the National Party Fiscal Plan, the current Government indicated an intention to use ETS proceeds differently. Accordingly, at the Mini Budget 2023, the Government reallocated unspent funds in the CERF, and future ETS proceeds, towards achieving other objectives. This decision means that there is no funding remaining in the CERF for new initiatives at Budget 2024.

### Information publicly available

Information covered by your request is included as part of the proactive release of Mini Budget 2023 documents. These will soon be made publicly available on the Treasury website:

Item	Date	Document Description	Website Address
1.	11 December 2023	Fiscal Management: Mini Budget, Budget 2024 and the Fiscal Sustainability Programme	<a href="https://www.treasury.govt.nz/publications/budgets/budget-information-releases">https://www.treasury.govt.nz/publications/budgets/budget-information-releases</a>

Accordingly, I have refused your request under section 18(d) of the OIA: the information requested is or will soon be publicly available.

## Information to be withheld

Information covered by your request is also included in documents that are the subject of Budget 2024 decisions. These are treated as Budget Sensitive until Budget Day (30 May). I expect that these will similarly be included as part of the proactive release of Budget documents, which usually occurs in the weeks after Budget Day:

Item	Date	Document Description	Decision
2.	December 2023	Budget 2024 Initial Baseline Exercise	Withhold
3.	1 March 2024	T2024/415 Advice on the future of the Climate Emergency Response Fund	Withhold
4.	12 March 2024	T2024/605 Status of allocations previously made through the Climate Emergency Response Fund	Withhold
5.	15 March 2024	T2024/684 Draft Cabinet paper on the National Resilience Plan and Climate Emergency Response Fund	Withhold
6.	11 April 2024	T2024/986 Cabinet Paper on Funding Approaches for Resilience and Climate Investment	Withhold

Accordingly, I have refused your request under section 9(2)(f)(iv) of the OIA: to maintain the current constitutional conventions protecting the confidentiality of advice tendered by Ministers and officials.

In making my decision, I have considered the public interest considerations in section 9(1) of the OIA.

Please note that this letter (with your personal details removed) may be published on the Treasury website.

This reply addresses the information you requested. You have the right to ask the Ombudsman to investigate and review my decision.

Yours sincerely

Alex Hamilton  
**Team Leader, Climate Change**