

18-D-02324

s 9(2)(a)

Dear s 9(2)(a)

Thank you for your email of 5 November 2018 requesting the following information:

I have the following information request relating to the Royal Commission on Genetic Modification.

On 17 April 2000, the Government of the day announced an inquiry would be established. Please send me copies of all communication between the Environment Ministry and MPs (including Ministers) in regards to the establishment of the inquiry.

How much was the inquiry expected to cost and how much did it cost? Please provide me with a breakdown of the inquiry's costs as far as payments to the commissioners are concerned.

When did the Environment Ministry begin discussing the possibility of an inquiry into genetic modification?

Please send me copies of all information you hold about Sir Thomas Eichelbaum between 1 December 1999 and 31 December 2000.

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

I am refusing your request under Section 18(a) of the Act, as due to the historic nature of information you are requesting it is all held by Archives New Zealand, not the Ministry for the Environment.

By searching on the phrase 'genetic modification' from their website at <https://archway.archives.govt.nz/> you can view a full list of all the files held. In particular, the file "Commission - Setup" (reference R442272) has an open access classification and is available for viewing at the National Office in Wellington, or a copy can be ordered via the Archives website at: <https://archway.archives.govt.nz/ViewFullItem.do?code=442272>.

As noted in the government media release of 17 April 2000 the cost of the Commission was estimated provisionally at \$4.8 million (<https://www.beehive.govt.nz/feature/royal-commission-genetic-modification>).

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.

If you wish to discuss this decision, please feel free to contact us.

Yours sincerely



Glenn Wigley
Director – Natural and Built Systems

