



Our Ref: 24 - 237

29 November 2024

9(2)(a)

Dear

**Re: Official Information Act request regarding carbon neutral public service targets**

I refer to your email to the Education Review Office dated 6 November 2024 requesting information under the Official Information Act 1982 as follows:

1. *Is your agencies continuing to pursue the carbon neutral public service targets?*
  - *If so please provide any documents showing how this is being implemented*
2. *The total spend on this target broken down by year since the targets were implemented (including but not limited to internal staff numbers, external spend, capital spend, offset spend)?*
3. *Total EV's brought since the targets were implemented broken down by year?*
  - *Please provide notes on type of car.*
4. *Total spent on agency emissions inventories by year since implementation.*
  - *Please provide the most recent inventory.*
5. *How much is spent on voluntary carbon offsets? (Not the ETS)*
  - *Please provide information on consultants for this and the total offsets.*
6. *Any consideration or actions involving Agricultural emissions.*

***Question 1: Is your [agency] continuing to pursue the carbon neutral public service targets? If so please provide any documents showing how this is being implemented.***

The Education Review office is continuing to work with the Carbon Neutral Government Programme to accelerate the reduction of emissions within the Public Service - [About the Carbon Neutral Government Programme | Ministry for the Environment](#). Please find details of how this is being implemented in ERO in our [Annual Report](#) (pages 73-75).

***Question 2: The total spend on this target broken down by year since the targets were implemented (including but not limited to internal staff numbers, external spend, capital spend, offset spend)?***

Government departments do not spend money on their targets. Departments make progress on their targets through emissions reductions year-to-year, which are achieved through a variety of initiatives, some that require upfront expenditure and some that have no cost. These initiatives often contribute to multiple strategic goals for a department and are often part of business-as-usual government operations, such as replacing assets at end-of-life. Some progress on targets has been achieved

indirectly, for example, through reduced government operations due to COVID-19 restrictions. The Education Review Office has three targets which are summarised below:

#### Air travel

- Goal: 5% year on year reduction to air travel from 1 July 2020 to 2025/26.
- Result: ERO has reduced its flights by 57% from its base year in 2020/21 and by 48% from year 2022/23.
- Comment: Travel is ERO's main source of carbon emissions. Air travel expenses is primarily due to the nature of ERO's work. ERO is responsible for evaluating and reporting on the education and care of students in schools and early learning services across the country. This work involves frequent travel to various locations, including remote and rural areas.

Air travel has reduced from 1 July 2020 mainly due to limited travel because of Covid-19 and the necessary changes ERO had to make to on-site reviews. In addition, as part of ERO's 2023/24 Fiscal Sustainability and Effectiveness Programme travel was analysed in detailed. To further consider our impact on the environment, ERO changed its scheduling to nearby areas resulting in less cross-country travel for our staff. As a result, ERO has reduced its air travel by 57% from the 2020/21 base year. There are no upfront costs associated with this initiative and costs associated with travel reflects the visits to schools and ECEs.

#### Office lease NABERS rating

- Goal: As office lease expires, ERO will consider buildings that have NABERS rating of 5 or more if ERO decides to move to different premises.
- Result: During 2023/24, 2022/23 and 2021/22 the Education Review Office did not relocate to any new premises.
- Comment: There are no upfront costs or ongoing costs associated with this initiative.

#### Replace hybrid vehicles with an Electric Vehicle (EV) Fleet

- Goal: Transition to a fully electric vehicle fleet by year 2025/26.
- Result: The Education Review Office has made purchases as follows in support of this goal:
  - o 2020/21 Financial Year – 3 Hyundai Ioniq Plug-in Hybrid Electric (PHEV) Vehicles and an electric vehicle charger (total capital expenditure of \$127,992.43)
  - o 2021/22 Financial Year – 2 electric vehicle chargers (total capital expenditure of \$8,955)

- 2022/23 Financial Year – 5 Hyundai Ioniq Electric Vehicles (EV) and 5 electric vehicle chargers (total capital expenditure of \$218,955 and total operating expenditure of \$58,685).

**Question 3: Total EV's brought since the targets were implemented broken down by year? Please provide notes on type of car.**

The Education Review Office has purchased as follows:

- 2000/01 Financial Year – 3 Hyundai Ioniq Plug-in Hybrid Electric (PHEV) Vehicles; and
- 2022/23 Financial Year – 5 Hyundai Ioniq Electric Vehicles (EV).

As noted in the response to the question above, 8 electric vehicle chargers have also been purchased.

The remainder of the Education Review Office's vehicle fleet are hybrid vehicles.

**Question 4: Total spent on agency emissions inventories by year since implementation. Please provide the most recent inventory.**

The Education Review Office's organisational expenditure on preparing, verifying and reporting it's emissions inventory is as follows:

- Measure period 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024 - \$4,620
- Measure period 1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023 - \$3,252
- Measure period 1 July 2021 to 30 June 2022 - \$2,632

Costs related to internal staff are withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the Official Information Act, as this could reveal details of staff salaries. This information is subject to their privacy.

For the most recent inventory, please refer to our Annual Report, linked above.

**Question 5: How much is spent on voluntary carbon offsets? (Not the ETS). Please provide information on consultants for this and the total offsets.**

The Education Review Office has not incurred any expenditure in relation to voluntary carbon offsets.

**Question 6: Any consideration or actions involving Agricultural emissions.**

The Education Review Office does not have agricultural emissions.

Please note that it is our policy to proactively release our responses to official information requests where possible. We do not publish requesters' personal information.



EDUCATION REVIEW OFFICE  
Te Tari Arotake Mātauranga

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 <http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz> or freephone 0800 802 602.

Ngā mihi,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'J. France'.

Jeremy France  
Deputy Chief Executive Corporate Services  
Education Review Office