

[REDACTED]

18 August 2023

Dear [REDACTED]

Re: Official Information Act Request: Heat Plant Database

Thank you for your email on Tuesday 1 August 2023 in which you requested information under the Official Information Act 1982. You requested:

I would like to request a copy of, or access to, a heat plant database preferably in a spreadsheet format. I would like to request that the database has the most up-to-date records of private and state sector businesses or operations with coal, gas, diesel, LPG, woodchip/biomass boilers and electric boilers (including heat pump boilers), broken down by organisation name, location, boiler and/or fuel type.

A heat plant database was developed by EECA in 2011 and has since been discontinued for use. EECA no longer publishes it or endorses its use. However, a version can be found publicly available on the Bioenergy Association website here <https://www.bioenergy.org.nz/resource/heat-plant-database>

EECA is currently building a new database of heat demand across NZ. This will include various metrics such as capacity and consumption, as well as various breakdowns such as region, sector and fuel source. This database is the most recent comprehensive and holistic assessment of heat demand across New Zealand and making this available in a timely manner will enable decisions to be made to change course to enable fuel switching and decarbonisation.

The database is expected to be finalised and published within the year. The data for the South Island is publicly available on EECA's website, and the North Island data is currently being collected. Therefore, the South Island data is refused under 18d – *that the information is publicly available*, and the North Island data is refused under section 18e – *that the information does not exist*.

Data for the South Island:

- The South Island Regional Database is available here: <https://www.eeca.govt.nz/insights/data-tools/regional-heat-demand-database/>
 - The full dataset can be downloaded in excel format (this can be found in the 'About' tab). However, we have attached the spreadsheet to our response email for your convenience.

- The South Island Regional Database Methodology document is available here:
https://www.eeca.govt.nz/insights/eeca-insights/regional-heat-demand-database/?gclid=EAAlQobChMI5Lnqpti_gAMV6cwWBR28eQZfEAAAYASAAEgI5JPD_BwE.

The database is broken down by (general) location and the type & amount of fuel. The organisation name is not included in this database. The sites included in the data collection signed a consent form that acknowledges that EECA will anonymise the organisations that this data concerns. Therefore, the organisation names are refused under:

- Section 9(2)(ba)(i) of the OIA: *to protect information which is subject to an obligation of confidence where the making available of the information would be likely to prejudice the supply of similar information, or information of the same source, and it is in the public interest that such information should continue to be supplied.*

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.

Please note that it is our policy to proactively release our responses to official information requests where possible. Our response to your request will be published shortly at <https://www.eeca.govt.nz/about/news-and-corporate/official-information/> with your personal information removed.

Yours sincerely



Andrew Caseley
EECA Chief Executive