

30 November 2022

s9(2)(a)

By email: s9(2)(a)

Dear s9(2)(a),

Thank you for your request of 14 November 2022 under the Official Information Act 1982, for the following information regarding smart meters:

1. *"Why in the matter of 5 to 7 years in regard to smart meter installation has it gone from "would you like a smart meter?" To "you must have a doctor's letter" to have it removed?"*
2. *This time period is also over the time that the "Democratic Socialist Party" has been in government, is the smart meter demand a particular "policy" or ideology of the Labour party?*
3. *How many meter readers were employed in each consecutive year going from the present back to 2015?"*

Your request was transferred to the Electricity Authority on 17 November 2022, in accordance with section 14(b) of the Official Information Act 1982.

#### Request 1

There is no law requiring you to have a smart meter. You can read more about your rights in regard to the installation of smart meters here: [Smart meters - Consumer NZ](#)

The Authority has information on our website on the benefits of smart meters here: [What are smart meters? — Electricity Authority \(ea.govt.nz\)](#)

#### Request 2

The Authority has consulted with the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE) and have been informed that there are no specific policies that promote smart meters.

#### Request 3

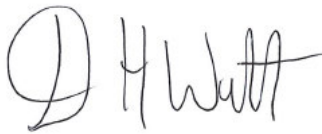
The Authority has consulted with Stats NZ. Stats NZ do not hold data on the number of meter readers employed in each consecutive year going from the present back to 2015. They do hold the number of meter readers recorded in the 2013 Census (564), and the number of meter readers recorded in the 2018 Census (420).

The 2018 Census data is available on the [Stats NZ website](#). To view information on occupations, you can open the 2018 Census totals by topic – national highlights document. Then select 'Occupations'. Meter Readers is code 561912.

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](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz) or freephone 0800 802 602.

If you wish to discuss this decision with us, please feel free to contact us by emailing [oiia@ea.govt.nz](mailto:oiia@ea.govt.nz).

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D H Watt'.

Doug Watt  
**GM Legal, Monitoring and Compliance (Acting)**