

23 February 2022

s9(2)(a)

By email: s9(2)(a)

Dear s9(2)(a),

Thank you for your request, received on 25 January 2022, for the following information under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

- *“Correspondence with Meridian in relation to the wholesale market review that has not been released.”*

The Electricity Authority (Authority) is committed to transparency and has, for that reason, proactively published the fact checking correspondence with the participants who provided information to the Authority for the wholesale market competition review: [Supporting material — Electricity Authority \(ea.govt.nz\)](#). The Authority has also proactively published and updated questions from stakeholders and our responses to those questions after publication of the consultation papers. Those questions and the Authority’s answers are published on the Authority’s website under the Q and A section on the review page: [Questions-and-answers-WMR.pdf \(ea.govt.nz\)](#). I have already provided you with a link to this information, published on our website, when you made this request.

Your request is for all correspondence between Meridian Energy Limited and the Authority, in relation to the wholesale market competition review, which has not already been released. This request is in addition to those you have recently made on the same or other topics.

The Authority does not have extensive resources available for research and analysis necessary to respond to requests under the Act, and therefore staff are diverted from other work to respond. In this case, some of the people working on your requests are the same individuals working to progress the competition review. Our proactive release of material to date including the publication of Q and A’s as they were received and responded to, and the fast publication of submissions combined with an iterative approach to engagement demonstrate our commitment to ongoing and appropriate transparency while being mindful of the need to progress this work in a timely manner. I am also mindful of the need for stakeholders to be able to express ‘free and frank’ views and opinions in engagement on the review, and the public interest in them being able to do so.

However, given your ongoing requests under the Act and your concern there may have been ‘process issues’ by the Authority despite the release of the fact checking correspondence, in this situation I consider it is likely to be most efficient to proactively publicly release all correspondence

on the review from all sector participants. I hope that this will help to ameliorate any concerns that you may have about the appropriateness of the processes the Authority has followed.

This release will cover all correspondence with participants in relation to the wholesale market review from 1 April 2021 until 22 December 2021 – including the correspondence between the Authority and the independent retailers you represent. All correspondence will be considered against the Act, and it is possible that some material will be withheld under relevant grounds of the Act. I intend to have this process completed and information published on our website by 20 April 2022 although this timing is contingent on the need to consult with impacted people.

Therefore, your request is declined under s18(d) of the Act as this information will soon be made publicly available.

Please note we intend to publish this letter on the Electricity Authority's website.

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 with us, please feel free to contact us by emailing oa@ea.govt.nz.

Yours sincerely



Andrew Doube
General Manager – Market Policy

cc: s9(2)(a) [redacted]
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