

18-D-01914

s 9(2)(a)

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Dear s 9(2)(a)

Thank you for your email of 3 September 2018, requesting the following information under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA):

*"I'd like the results generated by the Contaminated Sites Remediation Prioritisation Tool, which MfE uses to allocate funding to contaminated site clean-ups. I understand the results were updated earlier this year. Please provide those results, as a ranked list, in a spreadsheet format, as it appears in the attached image, taken from the tool's user manual. Please provide the entire document, including all contaminated sites subjected to the tool."*

We have attached the sheet entitled "Site\_Data" from the Contaminated Sites Remediation Fund (CSRF) Prioritisation Tool as per the screenshot attached to your request.

The CSRF provides \$2.63 million in annual funding to regional councils and unitary authorities for the investigation and/or remediation of contaminated sites.

The Prioritisation Tool, based on information provided by regional councils, ranks the sites in the order of the potential risk they may pose to human health and the environment. The Prioritisation Tool only includes sites that meet the eligibility criteria of the CSRF and regional councils consider a priority for investigation or remediation.

Therefore, the Prioritisation Tool does not include every potentially contaminated site in New Zealand. New sites are added to the Prioritisation Tool as part of the biannual CSRF funding rounds, which close on the last working day of March and September. The purpose of the Prioritisation Tool is to inform funding decisions on CSRF applications and direct funding to those sites that potentially pose the most significant risk to health or the environment.

The Prioritisation Tool is a live document that is updated regularly. It was last updated on 18 September 2018 in preparation for the upcoming funding round, which closed on 28 September 2018; we have released this latest version to you in full. As part of the formal review of all applications received in the September funding round, the Prioritisation Tool will be updated again as new information is provided to the Ministry.

The Ministry publishes the CSRF Priority List on our website. The Priority List comprises the ten sites from the Prioritisation Tool that the Government has prioritised for funding from the CSRF. The Priority List published on the Ministry's website was updated following the March 2018 CSRF funding round. A revised list will be published on the Ministry's website once decisions are made upcoming funding September funding round.



You will notice that the site ranked as number one in the Prioritisation Tool, 'Historic Christchurch Landfill,' has not been included on the Priority List on the website. The nature of this site differs to the remainder of the sites on the database as it involves private residential landowners. These landowners, like the Ministry and Environment Canterbury, were unaware that the land was contaminated until recently.

The fact that the Historic Christchurch Landfill site is not on the Priority List on the website simply reflects a desire to protect their privacy at this stage of the process to avoid undue attention to the contamination while landowners and Environment Canterbury take action to address the contamination. Environment Canterbury has already received funding from the CSRF to investigate the site and is now working closely with the affected landowners to find a solution to remediate the affected areas. The Ministry is currently funding four sites on the Priority List and working with regional councils on two other sites on the Priority List which were approved for funding in the March 2018 funding round.

We recommend that if you have any further questions regarding any of the sites listed on the Prioritisation Tool you contact the relevant regional council for the latest information.

Under Section 28(3) of the OIA, you have the right to ask the Ombudsman to review my response to your request.

Yours sincerely



**Shaun Lewis**  
Director, Mana Honohono – Investments and Partnerships

Released under the provisions of  
the Official Information Act 1982

