

s 9(2)(a)

Radio New Zealand

s 9(2)(a)@rnz.co.nz

Dear s 9(2)(a)

Thank you for your email of 5 December 2018 requesting the following under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

- Details of all locations so far reported to any part of Government, including Ministry for the Environment and the New Zealand Defence Force and any regional council where PFAS contamination is more than five times above the guidelines either for PFOS or PFOA or PFOS+PFHxS, and either for recreational or drinking water, and for soil.
- With each location, please detail:
 - a) what the levels of each of the compounds above was, at its highest recorded level from samples taken at any date (so, not all the recorded levels, just the highest), and the date of that sample being taken
 - b) what its latest updated recorded level is, per compound

The Ministry for the Environment does not hold any information from any part of government that falls within the scope of the request beyond that which is already publically available, or that Radio New Zealand has not already been provided with through a request to Taranaki Regional Council on 9th August 2018.

Information regarding New Zealand Defence Force investigations can be found here:

<http://www.mfe.govt.nz/land/pfas-and-poly-fluoroalkyl-substances/latest-updates/pfas-and-pfoa-documents-released-under-oiia>


In early 2018, the Ministry contacted all New Zealand regional councils requesting them to identify and provide a list of sites in their region that may have used PFAS and which potentially posed the greatest risk to health and the environment. This was in order to help the All of Government Programme understand the extent of sites in New Zealand considered to be high risk in relation to PFAS. Fifteen regional councils have provided this information to the Ministry. Information was made available to assist councils in their investigation; this high level process does not include water and/or soil sampling, and therefore water and/or soil sampling data relating to the sites identified were not included in the request.

The role of the All of Government PFAS Programme, led by the Ministry for the Environment, is to oversee and coordinate the response to PFAS contamination in New Zealand, not to manage PFAS contaminated sites individually across the country. In New Zealand, all contaminated land is managed according to the

requirements of the Resource Management Act (RMA). This includes land contaminated by PFAS. Under the RMA, the identification, monitoring and management of contaminated land are functions for regional councils and territorial authorities. A landowner may also choose to investigate their land to determine whether contaminants are present. Councils and landowners are not required to provide this information to the Ministry for the Environment. Information pertaining to council investigations may be found on the respective council website.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of my decision to withhold information relating to this request, in accordance with section 28(3) of the Act. The relevant details can be found at: www.ombudsman.parliament.nz.

If you have any queries, please feel free to contact our Executive Relations team.



Sincerely
Glenn Wigley
Director, Natural and Built System

Released under the provision of
the Official Information Act 1982