

19-D-0006

s 9(2)(a)

Dear s 9(2)(a)

Thank you for your email of 7 January 2019 requesting the following under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

'... please provide the following information from 1996 onwards, or otherwise indicated, by calendar year:

- *the effective provisions made by the Ministry for public participation in environmental planning and policy formulation processes with respect to fireworks*
- *the solicited and obtained information from any source, and conducted and supervised research, on fireworks. This includes consideration of the increasing amount of high density housing on the effects of fireworks.*
- *procedures for the assessment and monitoring of environmental impacts of fireworks*
- *pollution control and the co-ordination of the management of pollutants in the environment due to fireworks*
- *the number of breaches of the Resource Management Act 1991 relating to fireworks, and their associated costs, specifically sections:*
 - o *13 Restriction on certain uses of beds of lakes and rivers*
 - o *15 Discharge of contaminants into environment*
 - o *15A Restrictions on dumping and incineration of waste or other matter in coastal marine area*
 - o *16 Duty to avoid unreasonable noise*
- *under section 9(1) of the Hazardous Substances (Fireworks) Regulations 2001, the number of certificates relevant to retail fireworks packages, by each type'*

Your points are noted below, with an explanatory to follow:

- *the effective provisions made by the Ministry for public participation in environmental planning and policy formulation processes with respect to fireworks:*
 - o Over 2006-08, in preparing advice on Amendments to the Hazardous Substances (Fireworks) Regulations 2001 to Reduce the Misuse of Fireworks, and on the Hazardous Substances (Fireworks) Amendment Regulations 2008, the Ministry consulted with government departments, industry and stakeholders.



- In 2014/15, the Government Administration Committee considered a petition requesting that the private use of fireworks be banned (https://www.parliament.nz/resource/en-NZ/51DBSCH_SCR64661_1/bac9396851cff67fdbb2cbd51be47999ddca6451), which involved public submissions and advice from the Ministry.
- *the solicited and obtained information from any source, and conducted and supervised research, on fireworks. This includes consideration of the increasing amount of high density housing on the effects of fireworks:*

The Ministry has been collecting data on the use of fireworks from a range of agencies since 2003. The agencies that currently provide data are:

- Fire and Emergency New Zealand (FENZ, previously the New Zealand Fire Service) – provides information on fires caused by fireworks, or where fireworks were mentioned in the FENZ message log recording the fire
- Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) – provides the total weight of fireworks imported into New Zealand
- Injury Prevention Research Unit at Otago University – collects statistics from the Ministry of Health relating to non-fatal hospital admissions for injuries caused by the “discharge of fireworks”
- ACC – provides the cost of claims to ACC for fireworks-related injuries
- New Zealand Police provided comments in 2018, as it took on an enforcement role in late 2017.

With regard to the Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA), the primary method of regulating air quality is under the Resource Management (National Environmental Standards for Air Quality) Regulations 2004 (the regulations). These regulations, however, do not specifically apply to the management of particular emission sources, such as fireworks

Regional councils are responsible for managing air quality and rules that apply to managing emissions from fireworks would be found in Air Plan rules, if the council has decided to actively manage this source. Auckland Council has a good example of this and you may wish to discuss this matter with Auckland Council.

If you have any queries about our response, please feel free to contact us via info@mfe.govt.nz

Yours sincerely



Robert McClean
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