



Tēnā koe 9(2)

Thank you for your email of 5 August 2023 requesting the following under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

How does a citizen actively monitor radiofrequency field levels near any given telecommunication facility using NZS 2772.1 please?

Is there any monitoring being undertaken for the National Environmental Standards for Telecommunication Facilities) Regulations and if so do you know by whom?

And finally are there any known bona fide specialists in the field in New Zealand to whom contact could be made to request some monitoring please? Nga mihi H.B.

The Ministry for the Environment (the Ministry) has not been able to identify any documents in scope of your request, and we are unable to advise of any other central government agency that may hold information or functions related to your request. I am therefore refusing your request under section 18(g) of the Act because the information is not held.

However, we have provided below some information that might be helpful in addressing the points raised in your request.

Under the Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA), councils are responsible for the RMA's day-to-day implementation, including giving effect to instruments of national direction such as the Resource Management (National Environmental Standards for Telecommunication Facilities) Regulations 2016 (NES-TF).

The NES-TF facilitates communication between facility operators and local authorities, including the use of NZS2772.1 and NSZ2772.2 for radiofrequency level measurements. As a result, you can request specific information from the council that relates to your area of interest.

To implement the RMA, a council can conduct peer reviews of specialist reports as deemed necessary. Councils may also maintain a list of qualified experts for telecommunications-related matters. For information on specialist monitoring services, I advise you to contact the relevant council, as the Ministry does not possess information in this regard.

Regarding your inquiry about monitoring the NES-TF, please note that the Ministry collects relevant data through the National Monitoring System (NMS). This system allows councils to provide us with yearly data on various aspects of plan-making and resource consent processing. This data includes instances where a resource consent has been required under the NES-TF.

The NMS's historical data from 2014/15 onwards is publicly accessible on the Ministry's website at: https://environment.govt.nz/what-government-is-doing/areas-of-work/rma/national-monitoring-system/ You can access previous years' data by reviewing the

data of each council. The most recent data for 2021/22 is expected to be released to the public by November this year.

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

Please note that due to the public interest in our work the Ministry for the Environment publishes responses to requests for official information on our <u>OIA responses page</u> shortly after the response has been sent. If you have any queries about this, please feel free to contact our Ministerial Services team: <u>ministerials@mfe.govt.nz</u>.

Ngā mihi,

Caroline Hart

GAMEL.

Director - Policy Implementation and Delivery Group Ministry for the Environment | Manatū Mō Te Taiao