



Prime Minister

Minister for Arts, Culture & Heritage

Minister for Child Poverty Reduction

Minister for National Security & Intelligence

Tim Benseman

Email: fyi-request-11754-5c0d4659@requests.fyi.org.nz

Ref: PMO 272-2019

Dear Tim Benseman

Official Information Act request relating to specific river pollutants

Thank you for your request made under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), received on 27 November 2019. You requested:

1. *"Can you please advise What reductions you have achieved in importation or manufacture of petrochemical urea as the major pollutant to our rivers?"*
2. *And also can you advise what reductions you have achieved in the second most prolific polluter of our rivers == sodium monofluoroacetate? As usage in NZ of this substance causes rivers to be polluted with thousands of tonnes of poisonous, rotting dead bodies of birds, rodents, pigs, deer, cows, sheep, dogs, possums etc, many of which take over 100 hours to die according to the MPI online document How humane are our pest control tools."*

This Office does not hold information specifically relevant to Part 1 of your request relating to the amount petrochemical urea imported and manufactured. Consultations have been undertaken with other relevant Ministerial Offices and agencies and no government agency holding information specific to this part of your request has been identified. Accordingly, Part 1 of your request is refused under section 18(g) of the Act on the basis *"that the information requested is not held by the department or Minister of the Crown or organisation and the person dealing with the request has no grounds for believing that the information is either-*

- (i) Held by another Department or Minister of the Crown or organisation, or a local authority; or*
- (ii) Connected more closely with the functions of another Department or Minister of the Crown or organisation or of a local authority."*

Part 2 of your request relating to sodium monofluoroacetate is more closely connected to the functions of the Department of Conservation (DoC) which is the government agency that uses 1080 for pest control. Accordingly, I have decided to transfer Part 2 of your request under section 14(b)(ii) of the Act to DoC.

DoC has the usual time limits under the Act from receipt of this transfer to make a decision on that part of your request.

You are entitled to ask the Ombudsman to review this response under section 28(3) of the Official Information Act.

Yours sincerely

Raj Nahna
Chief of Staff