

13 December 2023

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Chris Johnston

By email: [fyi-request-24923-c7713c16@requests.fyi.org.nz](mailto:fyi-request-24923-c7713c16@requests.fyi.org.nz)

Ref: H2023033244

Tēnā koe Chris

### **Response to your request for official information**

Thank you for your request under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) to Manatū Hauora (the Ministry of Health) on 28 November 2023 for information regarding Watercare. Your request stated:

*“Please supply any document that illustrates that the Ministry of Health:*

*a) Has a direct contract with myself or people such as myself, or*

*b) Is a joint contractual partner in my contract with Watercare.*

*Please supply any document that shows that the Ministry of Health has a regulatory relationship with Watercare with respect to the water supply contract I am a part of.*

*Please quote the basis of this regulatory power - eg the relevant Act, Order in Council, regulation etc.*

*Please supply any document that shows that the Ministry of Health has a regulatory relationship with myself with respect to the water supply contract I am a part of with Watercare. Please quote the basis of this regulatory power - eg the relevant Act, Order in Council, regulation etc.”*

Your request is refused in full under section 18(g)(i) of the Act, as the information is not held by the Ministry or any other agency subject to the Act.

It is important to note that Manatū Hauora is not aware of any contracts you may hold with Watercare.

Manatū Hauora was the regulator for drinking water and had a relationship with Watercare up until 15 November 2021. This was not a contractual relationship however Watercare had a duty to comply with part 2A of the Health Act 1956 (now repealed) and the Drinking Water Standards for New Zealand that were in place at that time. The regulation of drinking water transferred to Taumata Arowai on 15 November 2021.

You may be interested in further information regarding the legislation and drinking water standards, which can be found in the following pieces of legislation:

- Health Act 1956: [www.legislation.govt.nz/act/public/1956/0065/latest/whole.html](http://www.legislation.govt.nz/act/public/1956/0065/latest/whole.html)
- Taumata Arowai—the Water Services Regulator Act 2020: [www.legislation.govt.nz/act/public/2020/0052/latest/whole.html](http://www.legislation.govt.nz/act/public/2020/0052/latest/whole.html)
- Water Services (Drinking Water Standards for New Zealand) Regulations 2022

- [www.legislation.govt.nz/regulation/public/2022/0168/latest/whole.html](http://www.legislation.govt.nz/regulation/public/2022/0168/latest/whole.html).

If you wish to discuss any aspect of your request with us, including this decision, please feel free to contact the OIA Services Team on: [oiagr@health.govt.nz](mailto:oiagr@health.govt.nz).

Under section 28(3) of the Act, you have the right to ask the Ombudsman to review any decisions made under this request. The Ombudsman may be contacted by email at: [info@ombudsman.parliament.nz](mailto:info@ombudsman.parliament.nz) or by calling 0800 802 602.

Please note that this response, with your personal details removed, may be published on the Manatū Hauora website at: [www.health.govt.nz/about-ministry/information-releases/responses-official-information-act-requests](http://www.health.govt.nz/about-ministry/information-releases/responses-official-information-act-requests).

Nāku noa, nā



Jane Chambers  
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**Public Health Agency | Te Pou Hauora Tūmatanui**