

4 March 2024

File Ref: OIAPR-1274023063-25626

Tēnā koe [REDACTED]

Request for information 2024-025

I refer to your request for information dated 19 February 2024, which was received by Greater Wellington Regional Council (Greater Wellington) on 19 February 2024. You have requested the following:

“In the media we hear that about 50 percent of Wellingtons reticulated water is leaking to ground.

From a back of a postage stamp calculation, that’s tonnes of elemental Fluoride pouring into the ground/waterways over time.

Can I have copies of any risk assessments undertaken regarding the impact of fluoride being diverted to groundwater/streams and copies of any resource consent applications to discharge such amounts?”

Greater Wellington’s response follows:

A broad search of our document management system has been completed. Greater Wellington does not hold any risk assessments regarding the impact of fluoride being diverted to groundwater/streams.

There are no resource consent applications lodged with Greater Wellington for the discharge of fluoride to groundwater and/or waterways due to leaks within the water supply network. Therefore we are refusing this part of your request under section 17(e) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 (the Act) on the basis that the document alleged to contain the information does not exist, or despite reasonable efforts, cannot be found.

When refusing a request under section 17(e) of the Act, we are required to consider consulting the requester. In this instance, we do not consider that consulting you would change the outcome of our decision.

Wellington Water Ltd manage the day to day operation of municipal water supply network on behalf of contributing Councils in the Region including Wellington City Council, Hutt City Council, Upper Hutt City Council, Porirua City Council, South Wairarapa District Council and Greater Wellington Regional Council.

We have consulted with Wellington Water Ltd about transferring your request for information and they have accepted the transfer.

Accordingly Greater Wellington is transferring the following part of your request to Wellington Water Ltd pursuant to section 12 of the Act on the basis that this information is not held by Greater Wellington Regional Council but is more likely to be held by Wellington Water Ltd:

“Can I have copies of any risk assessments undertaken regarding the impact of fluoride being diverted to groundwater/streams”

Further correspondence will therefore come to you directly from Wellington Water Ltd. In this regard the 20 working day time limit for providing you with a substantive response to this request will begin from the day after Wellington Water Ltd receives this transfer.

If you have any concerns with the decision(s) referred to in this letter, you have the right to request an investigation and review by the Ombudsman under section 27(3) of the Act.

Please note that it is our policy to proactively release our responses to official information requests where possible. Our response to your request will be published shortly on Greater Wellington’s website with your personal information removed.

Nāku iti noa, nā



Lian Butcher
Kaiwhakahaere Matua Taiao | Group Manager Environment Group