

23 SEP 2019

James Adams

By email: fyi-request-11088-f7260c6f@requests.fyi.org.nz  
Ref: H201907743

Dear Mr Adams

### Response to your request for official information

Thank you for your request under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) on 29 August 2019 for:

*"I wish to more about New Zealand's Medical Officers of Health (MOHs), a position governed by section 7A of the Health Act 1956. Could you please inform me:*

- (a) how many people are presently designated as a MOH?*
- (b) which urban centres (or districts) are these MOHs are based in?*
- (c) how many MOHs are based in each urban centre (or district)?*

*And finally, can a updated/new full test analysis on pharmaceuticals in drinking water throughout NZ Nationwide be done please and all results published publicly."*

Information pertaining to your request is outlined below. The boundary lines are available on the Ministry of Health (the Ministry) website:

<https://www.health.govt.nz/system/files/documents/pages/map-health-districts-and-public-health-services.pdf>.

Districts	Number of Medical Officers of Health
Northland	3
Auckland	9
Waikato and Ruapehu (Northern part)	4
Bay of Plenty and Lakes	3
Gisborne	2
Hawkes Bay	2
Taranaki	2
Manawatu, Whanganui, and Ruapehu (Southern part)	3
Wellington, Hutt Valley and Wairarapa	4
Nelson and Marlborough	2
Canterbury, South Canterbury and West Coast	3
Otago and Southland	2
Ministry of Health	5

In response to the last part of your request, the Ministry has not undertaken any testing for pharmaceuticals in New Zealand drinking-water supplies. Water testing is not routinely undertaken by the Ministry, but by local water suppliers. The local water suppliers should have identified all risks in their drinking-water supplies in their water safety plan, including catchment risks if their drinking water intake is downstream from a wastewater treatment plant.

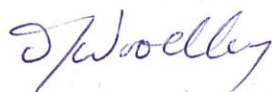
The Ministry is aware of a study undertaken by Auckland council on the health effects of these compounds arising from drinking-water supplies. The World Health Organisation (WHO) has also conducted some research on the health effects and monitoring requirements for these compounds, which is available on their website:

[https://www.who.int/water\\_sanitation\\_health/publications/2011/pharmaceuticals\\_20110601.pdf](https://www.who.int/water_sanitation_health/publications/2011/pharmaceuticals_20110601.pdf).

I trust that this information fulfils your request. Under section 28 of the Act, you have the right to ask the Ombudsman to review any decisions made under this request.

Please note that this response (with your personal details removed) may be published on the Ministry's website.

Yours sincerely



Deborah Woodley

**Deputy Director-General  
Population Health and Prevention**