

19-E-0642 / DOC 6126256

26 November 2019

Wendy Pond
via fji.org.nz

Dear Ms Pond

I refer to the Official Information Act (“OIA”) request you submitted to the Department on 17 September 2019 regarding the aerial 1080 operations that were carried out in Moehau and Papakai in 2017.

You requested that we provide you with copies of the communication records prepared by the Department in respect of the two operations, and asked whether the Department provided copies of those records to the Waikato District Health Board (“the DHB”). For ease of reference, we have considered each part of your request separately below.

Copies of communication records

The Department has documented the consultations and notifications undertaken in respect of the Moehau and Papakai operations in two separate communication records (also known as ‘communication plans’). These communication records are “living” documents that are updated each time the Department consults or notifies a stakeholder or affected party.

We understand that the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) has provided you with copies of the communication records relating to the Moehau and Papakai operations in response to a request you submitted via the *FYI* website. We note that those communication records are more recent versions of the communication records that were provided by the Department to the DHB. Therefore, the communication records provided to you by the EPA include some additional entries relating to consultations and notifications that have taken place since those records were provided to the DHB.

You have asked that we provide you with copies of the communication records *that were provided to the DHB*. We are therefore providing you with copies of the versions of the communication records that were provided by the Department to the DHB (attached to my email as items 1 and 2). These versions do not include the entries relating to the consultations and notifications that have since taken place (for example, notices given to affected parties and stakeholders twenty-four hours prior to the start of the operation to inform them that the operation will soon commence).

In providing these communication records to you, we are withholding the names and contact details of individuals under section 9(2)(a) of the OIA to protect their privacy. We are also withholding the names of staff members under sections 9(2)(a) and 9(2)(g)(ii) of the OIA to protect their privacy and to prevent any improper pressure or harassment. In making the decision to withhold that information, I have taken into account the public interest considerations set out in section 9(1) of the OIA.

Communication records provided to the DHB

I can confirm that copies of the communication records relating to the Moehau and Papakai operations were emailed to the Health Protection Officer of the DHB on 14 August 2017. For the avoidance of doubt, I also note that those communication records were emailed to the DHB on the same date on which the Department submitted the two applications for permissions from the DHB.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this decision. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or freephone 0800 802 602.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Ben Reddiex".

Ben Reddiex
Director National Operations – Issues and Programmes