

23 July 2021

LGOIMA No. 8140008812
(Please quote this in any correspondence)

Lynn Worthington
By email: fyi-request-15785-716f58e0@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Lynn

Local Government Official Information And Meetings Act 1987

Drug and alcohol testing

I refer to your request which we received on 14 June 2021, regarding drug and alcohol testing at Auckland Council. I also refer to my email to you on 12 July 2021, extending the timeframe for us to respond to your request. Thank you for your patience while we have worked on this response.

The specific details of your request and our response is below:

1. **Does the organisation carry out drugs and alcohol testing (among employees or other persons)?**
2. **If drug and alcohol testing does take place at the organisation:**
 - a. **Who currently provides the testing service i.e., name of service provider(s)?**
 - b. **For each (named) service provider:**
 - i. **What is the nature of the drug & alcohol testing service delivered e.g., saliva, urine, breath and alcohol and synthetic cannabinoids?**
 - ii. **In what geographic location(s) is the service delivered?**
 - iii. **Is the service provided under contract? If yes:**
 1. **How many contracts does the provider have with your organisation?**
 2. **What is the term of that/those contract(s)?**
 3. **What is the dollar value of that/those contract(s)?**
 4. **Are there options for renewing that/those contract(s)?**
 - c. **What organisation(s)/company(ies) previously conducted drug and alcohol testing for your organisation (repeat all of 'b' for previous service providers)?**

Auckland Council does carry out drug and alcohol testing. This testing is currently provided by TDDA, The Drug Detection Agency, who provide pre – employment alcohol and drug testing as well as post incident and reasonable cause.

TDDA also provide random selection testing for Asset and Infrastructure Maintenance Services (AIMS), a division within Council.

Alcohol testing is done from a breath sample and the drug test is a urine sample provided by the individual, both will provide a result instantly to the individual, due to a process change effective 1 July 2021. Should the result be invalidated or indicate a presence of drugs, the urine sample will then be sent to the Laboratory for further analysis.

This service is delivered across New Zealand with the majority of the locations available within the wider Auckland area. Australia has a few locations available which follow the same SOP (Standard Operating Procedure) as New Zealand.

The provider has two contracts with Auckland Council. The first covers recruitment (pre-employment), post incident and reasonable cause testing. This contract has been extended for 2 years to 31 July 2023. The dollar value of this contract is being withheld under section 7(2)(b)(ii) of the Act as we consider that supplying this information could prejudice the commercial position of the current provider.

A second contract is held by AIMS that covers random selection and post incident and reasonable cause testing that expires on 31 July 2021. Conversations are continuing in respect of this contract.

Prior to TDDA, Madison Recruitment Limited was engaged for pre-employment testing and testing was then outsourced. Your request for information relating to previous service providers is refused under s17(f) as it cannot be made available without substantial collation and research. To search, read and collate all the information we hold would take many hours and we cannot process this information without it having an adverse impact on our ability to carry out our other functions.

Decisions about this response to your request were made by **Andre Lubbe, Head of Employment Relations**.

I hope you find this information useful. I also wish to apologise for the delay in getting this response to you.

Should you believe Auckland Council has not responded appropriately to your request, you have the right by way of complaint, under section 27(3) of the LGOIMA, to apply to the Ombudsman to seek an investigation and review of the decision.

If you have any further queries please contact me on 09 301 0101, quoting LGOIMA No. 8140008812.

Yours sincerely



Fernanda Maciel
Senior Privacy & Official Information Business Partner
Governance Services