

6 March 2023

By email: fyi-request-21730-25ccee66@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Ms Haddock

Official Information Act Request: Measles Virus Proof of Existence

On 4 February 2023 you requested information under the Official Information Act 1982 (Act) to ESR as follows:

I request the following information under the Official Information Act;

- 1. Is covid-19 wastewater monitoring still happening at the Waiuku site?*
- 2. If not, why is routine testing no longer happening?*
- 3. Brent Gilpin has told me Waiuku is on your list for ongoing testing, when will testing resume?*
- 4. If wastewater testing has been happening and results have not been uploaded to the website, please provide me with any information relating to the results of this testing from October 2022 to the current date.*

Our response to your request:

- 1. Is covid-19 wastewater monitoring still happening at the Waiuku site?*
No.
- 2. If not, why is routine testing no longer happening?*
Waiuku does not have an autosampler to allow collection of samples over a 24 hour period. This is more representative than a grab sample. Installation of autosampler is something we would like to do, but we are awaiting decisions first on whether this site will be part of the long-term surveillance (see #3)
- 3. Brent Gilpin has told me Waiuku is on your list for ongoing testing, when will testing resume?*
We are still in negotiation with Te Whatu Ora over the ongoing wastewater testing programme and agreement on which sites will be included. Waiuku is on our recommended list, but inclusion is dependent on a range of considerations relative to other sites which are still being finalised.
- 4. If wastewater testing has been happening and results have not been uploaded to the website, please provide me with any information relating to the results of this testing from October 2022 to the current date.*
 - 5 October 2022 – detected 28,000 genome copies/L
 - 10 October 2022 - detected 8,000 genome copies/L
 - 1 February 2023 - detected 800 genome copies/L

Your right to seek a review

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.

Thank you for your request.

Yours sincerely



Wim Nijhof
Interim General Manager Health and Environment - Environment – ESR