

06 June 2023

Kris Roestenburg  
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Kia ora Kris

**Official Information Act 1982 – OIA2022111101**

I refer to your request under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) regarding disposal of hazardous waste, which was received by Capital, Coast and Hutt Valley District (CCHV) on 09 September 2022.

Specifically, you requested:

*RE: 12 Broken Hill Road, Wellington.*

- 1. What was sent to Interwaste for processing leading up to the 10th of May 2023?*
- 2. I would also like to ask if Health New Zealand is aware that the business they are sending their hazardous and infectious waste to for processing is operating outside of their discharge to air consent and has done so for at least 5 years endangering not only their own staffs health but also that of the general public in the vicinity?*

District Health Boards were disestablished as legal entities on 1 July 2022 and Te Whatu Ora – Health New Zealand was established as a legal entity under the Pae Ora (Healthy Futures) Act 2022. Capital & Coast and Hutt Valley District Health Boards are now one district known as Capital, Coast and Hutt Valley District (CCHV). Both locations share information, staff, many services and a single Interim District Director.

**Our response to your request is outlined below.**

**Response**

- 1. What was sent to Interwaste for processing leading up to the 10th of May 2023?*

Te Whatu Ora, Capital, Coast and Hutt Valley (Te Whatu Ora) sends a variety of waste to Interwaste at 12 Broken Hill Road, Kenepuru. Some is classed as hazardous (waste exhibiting characteristics that may pose a threat or risk to public health, safety or environment) and some are recyclable products that standard providers may not recycle. A number of tenants at Te Whatu Ora sites also send waste to Interwaste that fall into the same categories.

Waste sent to Interwaste includes the following:

- Hazardous wastes
  - Cytotoxic waste (which is stored until it is shipped to Australia for processing)
  - Infectious waste
  - Sharps waste
  - Pharmaceutical waste (expired medication)
  - Expired X-Ray fluid
  - Waste containing expressible body fluids
  - Waste from Isolation rooms

2. Recyclable waste
  - Single use metal instruments
  - Used batteries
  - Dental Amalgam
  - Glass tube lights
  - Sterile surgical wrap

Te Whatu Ora does not hold information on the specific breakdown of items that are disposed of in these streams. Accordingly this part of your request is refused under section 18(g) of the Act.

2. *I would also like to ask if Health New Zealand is aware that the business they are sending their hazardous and infectious waste to for processing is operating outside of their discharge to air consent and has done so for at-least 5 years endangering not only their own staffs health but also that of the general public in the vicinity?*

Te Whatu Ora is unaware of any non-compliance on the part of Interwaste regarding its discharge to air consent. Te Whatu Ora is aware that Interwaste is audited by Greater Wellington Regional Council (GWRC) on an annual basis, and that all audits have been passed over the last 5 years. Te Whatu Ora is also aware that Interwaste has been audited at random on a number of occasions and no non-compliance with i discharge to air consent has been found. If there were any concerns for staff and public as a result of these scheduled and random audits, it would be escalated to Regional Public Health (RPH) by GWRC. GWRC have not escalated any concerns to RPH over the last 5 years.

Note that CCHV have clauses within the contract outlining that Interwaste are obligated to comply with all CCHV policy and New Zealand legislation and standards. This includes but is not limited to the following:

- Management of Healthcare Waste NZS 4304:2002;
- Health and Disability Standards NZS 8134:2008;
- Health and Safety at work Act 2015;
- Human Tissue Act 2008 NZS 4031:1992;
- Waste Minimisation Act 2008;
- Transport of Dangerous Goods on Land NZS 5433 2012;
- Council of the Wellington Region Waste Management and Minimisation Plan;
- Hazardous Substances and New Organisms Act 1996, Code of Practice for the transportation of hazardous substances;
- Land Transport Act 1998;
- Land Transport Rule: Dangerous Goods 2015;
- Non-reusable Sharps Containers AS/NZS 4261:1997;
- Resource Management Act 1991;
- Wellington City Trade Waste Bylaws 2004;
- Wellington Water Conservation and Efficiency Plan.

As this information may be of interest to other members of the public, Health NZ has decided to proactively release a copy of this response on Health NZ's website. All requestor data, including your name and contact details will be removed prior to release. The released response will be made available at <https://www.ccdhb.org.nz/news-publications/information-releases-oia/>

I trust this information fulfils your request. You have the right, under section 28 of the Act, 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](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz) or you can free phone 0800 802 602.

Nāku ite noa, nā



**Jamie Duncan**

**Interim Lead – Hospital and Specialist Services**

**Capital, Coast and Hutt Valley**

**TeWhatuOra.govt.nz**

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**Te Kāwanatanga o Aotearoa**  
New Zealand Government