

OIA Ref: CAS-01825-F2N7Q8

15 January 2024

Mr Davies

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Tēnā koe Mr Davies

Request for information relating to Drinking Water Standards survey responses

Thank you for your email dated 1 December 2023, requesting the following information further to your earlier request of 8 November 2023:

“..provide the detailed voting information (YES, NO, or DON'T KNOW) for each organization and group for all 26 survey questions. This information is crucial for a comprehensive understanding of the collective stance and perspectives of these entities on the changes to the Drinking-water Standards for New Zealand.”

We have considered your request under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA).

Response

Detailed results of Drinking Water Standards consultation survey

1. Included as an attachment to this response is an Appendix which provides detailed response information from the Drinking Water Standards (DWS) consultation survey results. The data provided in Appendix One has been extracted from CitizenSpace, an online survey platform that Taumata Arowai used as a public consultation tool to support the DWS survey.
2. A total of 77 respondents participated in the DWS survey; 18 were individuals, 59 participated on behalf of a group or organisation. Columns E and F of Appendix One identify whether a response was provided on behalf of an organisation and, if so, which organisation.
3. Responses to the substantive DWS survey questions submitted by respondents are set out in columns Z-CA of Appendix One. Some submitters indicated they would like to answer all survey questions however did not do so, as indicated by incomplete fields. There were also a small number of submitters who indicated they would like to submit a prepared response but did not upload one.
4. Two survey respondents provided prepared responses separate to the survey, which were received by Taumata Arowai via email. These respondents' prepared responses accompany the survey results provided in rows 7 and 20 of Appendix One. The prepared responses are attached as Appendix Two and Appendix Three to this response.
5. Where indicated, some information has been redacted from Appendix One for some survey respondents in accordance with the following sections of the OIA:
 - a. Section 9(2)(a): *Withholding of information is necessary to protect the privacy of natural persons, including that of deceased natural persons.* We have generally withheld personal contact details associated with submission made on behalf of organisations, where the submitter has indicated a preference for their submission not to be released.

- b. Section 9(2)(ba)(i): *Protect information which is subject to an obligation of confidence or which any person has been or could be compelled to provide under the authority of any enactment, where the making available of the information would be likely to prejudice the supply of similar information, or information from the same source, and it is in the public interest that such information should continue to be supplied.* We have withheld the responses of two individual submitters (as opposed to submitters on behalf of organisations), who indicated a preference for their submission not to be released.
6. Rationales for withholding grounds in accordance with the OIA are outlined in columns CB and CC of Appendix One. When assessing the application of the withholding grounds noted above, factors we have considered include the passage of time since the consultation exercise was conducted and submissions received, and the nature of the information provided by each submitter.
7. Taumata Arowai does not consider that the need to withhold the redacted information is outweighed by other considerations which render it desirable, in the public interest, to make that information available.

Right to complain

You have the right by way of complaint to the Ombudsman under s 28(3) of the OIA to seek an investigation and review of this response. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or freephone 0800 802 602.

Ngā mihi



Zoe Ogilvie-Burns
Acting Director Policy