

4 September 2024

Catherine Jamieson  
[fyi-request-27964-8773c88c@requests.fyi.org.nz](mailto:fyi-request-27964-8773c88c@requests.fyi.org.nz)

Tēnā koe Catherine

### Your request for official information, reference: HNZ00059749

Thank you for your email of 8 August 2024, asking Health New Zealand | Te Whatu Ora for the following under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

- 1. What are, or have, been the contracted waste disposal company/companies contracted to retrieve and dispose of Covid vaccines that have been distributed to provider sites? If the contract is or has been held by different companies please list and identify what dates or locations the contract applies or applied.*
- 2. What entity has the contract for doses that were wasted at the DHL or Healthcare Logistics wasted at the warehouse? What is the process when this occurs? Does the process merge with disposal of vaccines that have been distributed to provider sites?*
- 3. In what region(s) are the secure landfill sites where the vaccine packaging and product are buried?*

### Response

Interwaste is the waste disposal company contracted for vaccination providers to use for the disposal of COVID-19 vaccines, as per the National Immunisation Operating Guidelines COVID-19 Vaccines and General Operating Guidance, see section 10, page 55:

[www.tewhatauora.govt.nz/assets/Health-services-and-programmes/Immunisation/Vaccine-service-delivery/nip-operating-guidelines-ver62-July\\_2024.pdf](http://www.tewhatauora.govt.nz/assets/Health-services-and-programmes/Immunisation/Vaccine-service-delivery/nip-operating-guidelines-ver62-July_2024.pdf)

As part of the disposal process, and in compliance with the NZS4304:2002 regulations on the Management of Healthcare Waste, vaccines are tracked to provide a visible audit system from collection to destruction. All vaccine packaging and product is reduced to a point that it is non recoverable for any use. It is then steam sterilised before deep burial in a secure landfill, encased in a leak proof container ensuring no risk of soil contamination.

However, the location of the secure landfill sites is refused under section 6(b)(ii) of the Act, as providing this information could prejudice the entrusting of information to the Government of New Zealand on a basis of confidence by an international organisation.

Please note that DHL and Healthcare Logistics hold their own contracts for the disposal of medical, clinical, and controlled waste, also in compliance with NZS4304:2002 Management of Healthcare Waste.

## How to get in touch

If you have any questions, you can contact us at [hnzOIA@tewhatuora.govt.nz](mailto:hnzOIA@tewhatuora.govt.nz).

If you are not happy with this response, you have the right to make a complaint to the Ombudsman. Information about how to do this is available at [www.ombudsman.parliament.nz](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz) or by phoning 0800 802 602.

As this information may be of interest to other members of the public, Health NZ may proactively release a copy of this response on our website. All requester data, including your name and contact details, will be removed prior to release.

Nāku iti noa, nā



**Sara Freitag**  
Manager, Machinery of Government Support  
National Public Health Services