



Simon Johnson  
FYI Website

Dear Simon

Thank you for your request of 15 March via the FYI website requesting the following information under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA):

*On your website on the page "Clean Water package 2017" (<http://www.mfe.govt.nz/fresh-water/freshwater-management-reforms/clean-water-package-2017>) there is a bar chart explaining the target of 90% of rivers and lakes swimmable by 2040 included in the report "Clean Water, ME 1293". The bar chart is also on page 11 of report "Clean Water, ME 1293".*

*The bar chart shows kilometres (which I assume are lengths of segments of rivers) in each of the five 'quality' categories (Poor, Intermittent, etc) with a time variable which has three bars; "Current", "2030" and "2040".*

*Will you please provide me with the underlying data; which I assume must be water quality monitoring site results (and future predictions for 2030 and 2040) analysed by the five quality categories and the three time categories "Current", "2030" and "2040". Will you also please include the name or number of each monitoring site, its region and for the "Current" selection, the sampling period for the actual E Coli counts. Please provide this data either in comma separated values or Excel 2007 format via the FYI website.*

*Finally, will you please confirm if the monitoring site sampling data is sourced from "Larned, S, Snelder, T, Unwin, M, McBride, G, Verburg, P, McMillan, H (2015). Analysis of Water Quality in New Zealand lakes and Rivers: data sources, data sets, assumptions, limitations, methods and results. NIWA Client Report no. CHC2015-033." If there is another source, will you please tell me what that is.*

In response to your request, the bar chart on the Clean Water package 2017 web page and on page 11 of the *Clean Water* discussion document shows the percentage of rivers and lakes in each of the five swimming categories (from 'excellent' to 'poor').

The percentage in each category is measured by kilometre; for rivers this means the length of river networks for stream order four and above, and for lakes this means the length of lake perimeters for lakes with a perimeter of more than 1500m.

The chart displaying the national totals for each category is made up of the combined total of each region's data. These are available as graphs (annotated with total kilometre lengths) on the Ministry for the Environment's website; you can find them by visiting [www.mfe.govt.nz/fresh-water/freshwater-management-reforms/water-quality-swimming-maps](http://www.mfe.govt.nz/fresh-water/freshwater-management-reforms/water-quality-swimming-maps) and select each of the regional pages from the map. As the data used to develop the bar chart is already presented in a publicly accessible format, albeit a different format to that which you have requested, this aspect of your request has been refused under section 18(d) of the OIA as the information is already publicly available.

The current state bar is based on modelling commissioned by the Ministry for the Environment (the Ministry) and carried out by the Cawthron Institute and LandWaterPeople. This modelling used monitoring site data compiled for *Larned, S, Snelder, T, Unwin, M, McBride, G, Verburg, P, McMillan, H (2015). Analysis of Water Quality in New Zealand lakes and Rivers: data sources, data sets, assumptions, limitations, methods and results. NIWA Client Report no. CHC2015-033.*

The 2030 and 2040 bars show the proposed targets. These are targets rather than predictions, based on the amount of improvement relative to the current state. Therefore for the 2030 and 2040 bars no data exists to describe which specific rivers, lakes or individual sites would be expected to fall within each of the five categories. The Minister for the Environment has asked regional councils to report back by 2018 about how they intend to achieve the targets, and this would include reporting on which rivers and lakes they intend to improve, and by how much, to meet the overall national targets.

The methods used to model river and lake water quality for swimming for these maps are outlined in the report *Strategic assessment of New Zealand's freshwaters for recreational use: a human health perspective.* This report is available on the Ministry for the Environment's website.

Under section 28(3) of the OIA, you have the right to ask the Ombudsman to review my response to your request.

Yours sincerely



Martin Workman  
**Director of Water**