

ENQ-34670-Q5H9R5

12 October 2018

Via: [REDACTED]

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Official Information Act Request

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email, received by the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) on 7 September 2018, which requested the following information:

- *The number of 1080 aerial drops in Queenstown Lakes District in the past five years, broken down by year and location*
- *The quantity of 1080 used and the hectares covered in the Queenstown Lakes District over the past five years*
- *The number of drops, quantity of 1080 used and hectares covered for the country's (14?) regions over the past 5 years*

We have considered your request under the Official Information Act 1982 (the OIA). An extension of one week was taken in order to collate and prepare the information. Our responses are provided below.

1080 aerial drops in Queenstown Lakes District in the past five years

The following table provides information held by the EPA about 1080 aerial drops, in Queenstown Lakes District, over the past five years. The table provides the area of Queenstown Lakes District where the aerial drop took place; the date of the drop; and the number of hectares covered by the drop. The target toxic loading (the percentage of 1080 in each bait) and the sowing rate (number of kilos of bait dropped per hectare) are also included.

Area (Queenstown Lakes District)	Date	Area Covered (ha)	Target Toxic Loading (% 1080, unless stated)	Sowing Rate (kg bait/ha)
Alice Burn	23 June 2017	611	1 g1080/kg bait	1
Makarora	23 February 2017	37,923	1 g1080/kg bait	1

East and West Matukituki Valley	27 October 2017	13,222	1.5 g1080/kg bait	1.5
Mount Gold	2 June 2016	4040	0.15	1
Devon Dairy	20 August 2018	120	0.02	30
East Hawea	21 September 2015	880	0.15	1.5
Lake McKay	11 August 2015	70	0.02	30
Mt Creighton	20 July 2015	200	0.02	30
Criffel Range	27 August 2014	350	0.02	30
Mt Burke	4 August 2014	170	0.02	30

Under section 18(e) of the OIA, I am refusing your request for the quantity of 1080 used, as this information is not held by the EPA (the document alleged to contain the information requested does not exist).

It may appear, from this table, that the quantity of 1080 used could be calculated from the figures in the table that relate to:

- The target toxic loading, which is the percentage of 1080 in a piece of bait
- The sowing rate, which is the number of kilos of bait dropped on each hectare.

However, as the EPA does not hold data on quantity, we are unable to say whether such a calculation would accurately reflect the amount of 1080 used.

1080 aerial drops in the country's regions

The EPA's website has a page entitled *1080 aerial operators' reports* that contains reports from 2008 to 2016. Each report includes a map of the area where the drop took place, the number of hectares treated, the date, and the number of kilos of bait dropped per hectare (the sowing rate). These reports can be filtered by both region and year, so you can view how many operations were undertaken each year in each region. The link to where the reports can be found on the EPA website is:

<https://www.epa.govt.nz/resources-and-publications/1080-aerial-operators-reports/>

The website does not include reports for 2017 or 2018. The 2017 report is currently being prepared for publication, however decisions in relation to this report have not yet been finalised. As such, this part of your request is being declined under section 18(d) of the OIA, on the grounds that this information will soon be publicly available. We anticipate that the 2017 reports will be published on the EPA website by 19 December 2018. If the reports will take longer than this to be released, we will contact you.

Post-operational 1080 reports are not required to be provided until six months after the date they were undertaken, which means that that all of the information for the 2018 reports has not yet been received. We are therefore refusing this part of your request under section 18(e) of the OIA, as the document alleged to contain the information requested does not exist.

Under section 23 of the OIA, 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.

If you have any further queries please do not hesitate to contact us via ministerials@epa.govt.nz.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Fiona Thomson-Carter". The signature is written in a cursive style and is underlined with a single horizontal line.

Dr Fiona Thomson-Carter
General Manager
Hazardous Substances and New Organisms