

ENQ-37840-V1H3P8

Date: *2nd February 2020*

Via: [REDACTED]@gmail.com

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## Official Information Act Request

Dear [REDACTED]

I refer to your email to the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) of 16 December 2019, in which you ask for:

*A list of chemicals sprayed on Northland pine forests... Safety Data Sheets also appreciated.*

Your request has been treated as a request for information under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA).

No hazardous substance may be used in New Zealand unless it has been approved by the EPA under the Hazardous Substances and New Organisms Act 1996 (HSNO). When deciding whether to approve a substance, the EPA considers the latest scientific data, and analyses research and decisions made by overseas regulatory bodies. In making its decision, the EPA must consider the risks to human health and the environment. If the EPA approves a substance it places controls (rules) over it, so that any risks to the public and the environment are minimised.

If you are concerned that the rules for a hazardous substance are not being followed, please contact WorkSafe New Zealand, the EPA, the Ministry for Primary Industries, or your local or regional council.

The EPA does not have a list of chemicals sprayed on Northland pine forests. I am therefore refusing this part of your request under section 18(e) of the OIA (the document alleged to contain the information requested does not exist). Because we cannot identify the chemicals involved in this request, we are unable to supply the relevant Safety Data Sheets without that information.

As Northland Regional Council (NRC) has compliance responsibilities in its region, they may have the information you are seeking. Options for making information requests can be accessed at <https://www.nrc.govt.nz/your-council/contact-us/official-information-requests/>.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review of this decision by the Ombudsman. You can contact the Ombudsman on 0800 802 602, or by email at [info@ombudsman.parliament.nz](mailto:info@ombudsman.parliament.nz).

If you have any further queries, please do not hesitate to contact us via [ministerials@epa.govt.nz](mailto:ministerials@epa.govt.nz).

Yours sincerely



Dr Allan Freeth  
Chief Executive  
Environmental Protection Authority