



Official Information Act Request

Requester's details

Date: 18 May 2021

Name: [REDACTED]

Job title: Journalist

Organisation: Radio New Zealand

Email: [REDACTED]@rnz.co.nz

Reference number: ENQ-41353-G3P8D5

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your request received on 19 April 2021 for the following information:

“Could I please request the following information around plastic exports from NZ:

1. How many plastic export consents have been granted since the beginning of the year
2. How many plastic export consent applications have been received since the beginning of the year
3. How many plastic export consent applications have been declined since the beginning of the year
4. On what grounds were they declined
5. What amount of plastic do these applications (granted/denied/received) do they represent
6. Where is the plastic being exported to.”

The Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) has received one application for a permit to export plastic waste from 1 January 2021 to 19 April 2021. The application is for the export of 10 tonnes of plastic waste to Australia. A decision has not yet been made on the application.

No other applications for permits for the export of plastic waste have been received so far this year.

Once a permit has been granted, the name of the importer or exporter, the waste product, destination, quantity and when the permit expires will be uploaded to our website <https://www.epa.govt.nz/industry-areas/hazardous-substances/hazardous-waste/current-permit-holders/>

The requirement for permits for the import and export of some types of plastic waste came into effect on 1 January 2021.

An amendment to the Imports and Exports (Restrictions) Prohibition Order (No 2) 2004 requires shipments of some types of plastic waste to have a permit from the EPA.

Part 2A of Schedule 3 of the Order lists the waste that does not require a permit. The onus is on companies to comply with both New Zealand law and the laws of the importing country. This also applies if a company is using a third party to export plastic waste.

Export permits for plastic waste can only be issued for one or more of the following reasons:

- New Zealand does not have the technical capacity and the necessary facilities, capacity, or suitable disposal sites to dispose of the waste in an environmentally sound and efficient manner.
- The waste is required as a raw material for any recycling or recovery industry in the importing State.
- The exportation of the waste is in accordance with any criteria decided by the Basel Parties¹ or the OECD Parties², if applicable. The applicant must provide information to support and explain why this criteria applies.

Further information regarding the import and export of plastic waste is available on the EPA website <https://www.epa.govt.nz/industry-areas/hazardous-substances/hazardous-waste/importing-and-exporting-plastic-waste/>

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

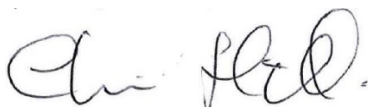
If you have any further queries, please do not hesitate to contact us at ministerials@epa.govt.nz

¹ Parties to the Basel Convention

² Members of the OECD

We will publish your request and our response on our website, www.epa.govt.nz, within 10 working days from today. We make OIA responses available so others can read more about the work we do and the questions we are asked. Any information that might identify you will be removed to protect your privacy.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chris Hill". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "C" and "H".

Chris Hill
General Manager,
Hazardous Substances and New Organisms