

Date: 20<sup>th</sup> December 2019Private Bag 632  
Wellington 6140, New Zealand

Via: [redacted]@gmail.com

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Dear [redacted]

I refer to your email request of 13 November 2019 for the following information:

*How many hazardous substances applications did the EPA review in 2018, and of those, what proportion did the EPA review risk information independent to that provided by the applicant, and where was this independent information sourced?*

On 3 December 2019, we emailed you to clarify the scope of your request, as follows:

*When you ask 'How many hazardous substances applications did the EPA **review** in 2018...', are you asking for the number of applications for **reassessment** of a hazardous substance the EPA has undertaken in 2018 (a 'reassessment' is a formal review of a substance that has already been approved for use in New Zealand); or the number of applications to **approve** the import, manufacture and use of a new hazardous substance undertaken by the EPA in 2018; or both applications and reassessments?*

As we did not receive a reply from you, we were obliged to respond to your request as it was originally worded. We wrote to you, on 6 December 2019, to say that we were extending the time to make our decision to 19 December 2019.

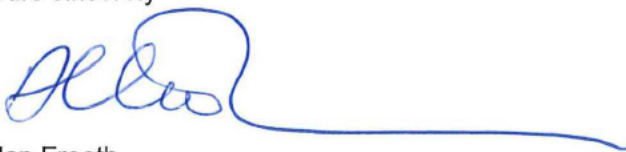
We are now writing to inform you that, because of the significant amount of work involved, we are refusing your request under section 18(f) of the Official Information Act 1982 (the information requested cannot be made available without substantial collation or research).

I have considered whether charging you for the request, or extending the due date again, would enable us to respond more satisfactorily. I have concluded that neither of these measures would allow the EPA to provide you with the information you have requested without causing disruption to our normal operations. I also consider that the public interest in the information you have requested does not outweigh the need to refuse your request on grounds of substantial collation or research.

Please feel free, however, to send a new request to us. If you would like to discuss the scope of that request, or if you have any queries about this letter, please contact Claire Cohen on 04 474 5563, or [Claire.cohen@epa.govt.nz](mailto:Claire.cohen@epa.govt.nz).

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](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz) or freephone 0800 802 602.

Yours sincerely



Allan Freeth  
Chief Executive Officer  
Environmental Protection Authority