

# Official Information Act Request

## Requester's details

Date: 20 May 2022

Name: [REDACTED]

Organisation: [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

Reference number: ENQ-43880-V7R4W9

Tēnā koe e [REDACTED]

Thank you for your request received on 4 May 2022 for the following information:

“ Under section 12 of the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA) we request all information held by the Environment Protection Authority (the **EPA**) relating to applications made to the EPA for a permit to export hazardous waste from 2018-2022.

In particular, we are seeking the following items of information within the parameters of our request above:

- What was the average processing time for export of hazardous waste permit applications in the calendar year of 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021 and 2022;
- What was the shortest processing time for export of hazardous waste permit applications in the calendar year of 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021 and 2022;
- What was the longest processing time for export of hazardous waste permit applications in the calendar year of 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021 and 2022;
- Any communications with the EPA relating to the delay of processing/decision making on hazardous waste permit applications and internal communications on the same;
- In the first instance, please provide all 2022 documentation requested above first.”

The information requested in your first three questions, which concerns processing times for hazardous waste export permits, may be found in the following table:

**Table 1.** Hazardous waste export permit processing timeframes (working days)

Year	No. of applications completed	Longest processing time	Shortest processing time	Average processing time	Notes
2022	14	299	63	138	24 applications in progress
2021	36	448	33	131	
2020	39	269	34	118	
2019	33	199	43	106	
2018	21	158	28	87	

We note that this data covers all types of Basel Convention export permits and that no statutory timeframes exist for processing these applications. We also note that these processing times include periods where the EPA has sought consent from the transit and importing countries and is awaiting response. The response time varies greatly between the Competent Authorities of different transit and importing countries. The processing time for each application is also impacted by the number of countries where consent is required to be sought.

We will be communicating with you separately about your fourth question.

I hope the information we are sending you is helpful. 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 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).

We may publish your request and our response on our website, [www.epa.govt.nz](http://www.epa.govt.nz). 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.

Nāku noa nā

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Chris Hill".

Dr Christopher Hill  
**General Manager, Hazardous Substances and New Organisms**