

2 February 2022



Response to a request for official information



Thank you for your request for official information received 15 December 2021 by Nelson Marlborough Health (NMH)¹, where you seek the following information:

- 1. I'm looking into Covid waste water testing in Nelson-Tasman and whether it was happening prior to a case being identified in the region in late November. I want to OIA all emails, documents and reports sent and received by the DHB in relevant to this issue, but want to target my request at the manager in charge of the DHB's Covid response, and those tasked with liaising with ESR re wastewater testing.*

NMH response:

We are not aware of any such correspondence – the Institute of Environmental Science and Research (ESR), on behalf of the Ministry of Health, undertakes regular wastewater testing throughout New Zealand for the presence of SARS CoV-2, the virus which causes COVID-19. The Ministry of Health outline how they respond to SARS CoV-2 detection in wastewater at the following webpage-

<https://www.health.govt.nz/our-work/diseases-and-conditions/covid-19-novel-coronavirus/covid-19-health-advice-public/covid-19-wastewater-testing>

This response has been provided under the Official Information Act 1982. You have the right to seek an investigation by the Ombudsman of this decision. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or free phone 0800 802 602. If you have any questions about this decision please feel free to email our OIA Coordinator OIArequest@nmdhb.govt.nz I trust this information meets your requirements. NMH, like other agencies across the state sector, supports the open disclosure of information to assist the public's understanding of how we are delivering publicly-funded healthcare. This includes the proactive publication of anonymised Official Information Act responses on our website from 10 working days after they have been released. If you feel that there are good reasons why your response should not be made publicly available, we will be happy to consider.

Yours sincerely



Lexie O'Shea
Chief Executive

¹ Nelson Marlborough District Health Board