

12 November 2018

██████████  
██████████  
██████████

Private Bag 63002  
Wellington 6140, New Zealand

Level 10, Grant Thornton House  
215 Lambton Quay  
Wellington 6011, New Zealand

epa.govt.nz  
+64 4 916 2426

## Official Information Act Request

Dear ██████████

This refers to your request which was transferred to the EPA by the Office of Hon David Parker on 12 October 2018. You have asked for:

*“Test results over the last 50 years of ‘natural’ background fluoridation contamination in the environment and in humans to examine the increasing poisonous-fluoridisation accumulation effects by the prolonged indiscriminate use of the extreme warfare poison 1080 for pest control”.*

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

The EPA does not hold any information on testing for background fluoridation contamination in the environment or humans to examine the increasing fluoridation accumulation effects by the use of 1080. I am therefore declining your request under section 18(e) of the OIA, as documents alleged to contain the information do not exist.

Water is tested for 1080, rather than for the fluoride that may be present as a result of 1080. To ensure safety of water supply and consistency of results, this testing must conform to the current Landcare Research Guideline for Sampling and Testing of Water associated with Monitoring of Aerial 1080 Baiting Operations. The link is provided below:

<https://www.landcareresearch.co.nz/resources/laboratories/toxicology-laboratory/services/advice-and-protocols/protocol-for-sampling-and-testing-water-for-1080>.

Testing is not undertaken to establish whether there has been an increase in fluoride due to the breakdown of 1080 following a baiting application. Because fluoride occurs naturally in the environment, it would be difficult to identify whether any fluoride detected by such a test was present as a result of a 1080 application. However, once 1080 has broken down to its components, the resulting residues would not be significant for the health of humans or the environment.

You may be interested to look at the EPA's website page on 1080, which can be found at <https://www.epa.govt.nz/everyday-environment/1080/>.

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

A handwritten signature in green ink, appearing to read 'Allan L Freeth', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Dr Allan L Freeth  
Chief Executive  
**Environmental Protection Authority**