



T Benseman

fyi-request-11871-a78e8cce@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear T Benseman

## Higher water quality standards

Thank you for your email of 12 December 2019, to Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern, requesting the following under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

*"What progress have you made on the following coalition agreement environmental goals which you signed with NZFirst?*

*Regarding your pledge to gain "higher water quality standards for urban and rural using measurements which take into account seasonal differences." Has there been any thoughts or actions by you into reducing the two major pollutants - petrochemical urea and sodium fluoroacetate, which has the rather disgusting habit of littering our rivers with dead rotting animals and is also very cruel, taking up to 120 hours to kill pigs, during which time they vomit 13.6 times on average before death. Native Kea, thankfully, only take 30 hours to die from the same substance.*

*And regarding "piloting alternatives to 1080" which you also signed up to in the agreement, what have you actually done with this?"*

On 20 February 2020 Rt Hon Ardern's office emailed you seeking refinement of the scope of the first part of your request, as there are a broad range of documents which refer to water quality standards. I am advised that no response has been received to that email.

On 20 March 2020 the first part of your request was transferred to my office to respond to, as this sits within my portfolio responsibilities as Minister for the Environment.

As noted to you in the letter of transfer from the Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern's office on 20 March 2020, the remainder of information you requested has been transferred to the office of Hon Eugenie Sage to respond to under section 14(b)(ii) of the Act. This information is more closely connected with her portfolio responsibilities as Minister of Conservation.

A preliminary search has identified that there are 2900 documents since the change of Government in 2017, which refer to 'water quality standards' therefore this aspect of your request is refused under section 18(f) of the Act as the information requested cannot be made available without substantial collation or research.

There is, however, information you may find of interest, relating to action for healthy waterways, available on the Ministry for the Environment website at:

<https://www.mfe.govt.nz/publications/fresh-water/action-healthy-waterways-discussion-document-national-direction-our>.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Office of the Ombudsman of my decision to withhold information relating to this request, in accordance with section 28(3) of the Act. The relevant details can be found on their website at: [www.ombudsman.parliament.nz](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz).

Please contact my office if you have any queries about this response.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'D. Parker', written in a cursive style.

Hon David Parker  
**Minister for the Environment**