



May 21, 2020

Robyn Smith

Via email: fyi-request-12652-96f28b8e@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Robyn,

**Response to official information request in relation to water pollution in Titahi Bay in February and March 2020**

I refer to your request for official information received April 20, 2020 relating to water pollution in Titahi Bay in February and March 2020. We have processed your request under the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act (LGOIMA) 1987.

The information you requested is enclosed.

The questions you specified have been included in bold below, with our response following each heading.

***Over a period in February and March 2020, Titahi Bay beach was contaminated by pollution and was unswimmable. I would like to know the following:***

***What was the contamination?***

The contamination was faecal coliform bacteria, generally associated with human-generated wastewater or direct discharge from mammals and birds.

***Where did the contamination originate?***

Following detection on February 27, 2020 an investigation process commenced, tracing stormwater flows from a culvert on south beach upstream through the stormwater network.

The investigation involved testing waters at each upstream manhole to determine at which stormwater pipe, or pipes, the high count entered from.

The investigation tracked the source to three points of origin.

***Was there more than 1 source of contamination?***

Yes, three locations were identified where wastewater entered the stormwater system.

***Is the person/company responsible for the contamination being prosecuted.***

At the time of writing, no.

***If the person/organisation responsible for the contamination is not being prosecuted, why not?***

Two of the sources, private properties, were to be accessed by arrangement with the owners during the week of May 18. This was to determine how the discharge was able to enter the stormwater system.

The Council's priority, following this final set of investigations, will be to require repair. Whether prosecution under the Council's Wastewater Bylaw follows is yet to be determined.

The third source of contamination has been identified as a length of collapsed public sewer main, located on private property. Prosecution, in this case, will be a decision to be made by the Greater Wellington Regional Council.

If you wish to discuss this further, please feel free to contact Water & Waste Manager David Down on telephone: 04 237 1503 or email: [david.down@porirua.govt.nz](mailto:david.down@porirua.govt.nz).

Ngā mihi,



Wendy Walker  
**Chief Executive**  
**Kaiwhakahaere Matua**