

8 October 2021

Gill Fair

**By email:** [fyi-request-16729-565c300a@requests.fyi.org.nz](mailto:fyi-request-16729-565c300a@requests.fyi.org.nz)

Dear Gill

### **Official Information Act Request: COVID-19 wastewater testing**

On 13 September 2021 you sent a request for information under the Official Information Act 1982 ("Act") to ESR as follows:

*"Could I please request the following information under the Official Information Act:*

- a) wastewater Covid testing results for August 2020 and August 2021, with dates and locations of each*
- b) As of September 2021, the locations of wastewater sites where Covid-monitoring is taking place and how often testing is taking place at each site."*

### **Our response to your request:**

- A) Results for August 2021 wastewater COVID-19 testing are available on our website at the following link: <https://www.esr.cri.nz/home/about-esr/media-releases/ninety-percent-of-new-zealand-covered-by-esrs-latest-results-of-wastewater-samples-for-covid-19/>

Due to the substantial amount of work that would be required to collate the data for August 2020, we are refusing this part of your request under section 18(f) of the Act. We have considered section 18(A) of the Act and consider that even if we were to charge you for the time to collate the data and extend the timeframe of the request, this would still unduly affect our team who are supporting New Zealand's COVID-19 response work.

- B) Due to the substantial amount of work that would be required to collate the information you have requested, we are refusing this part of your request under section 18(f) of the Act. We have considered section 18(A) of the Act and consider that even if we were to charge you for the time to collate the data and extend the timeframe of the request, this would still unduly affect our team who are supporting New Zealand's COVID-19 response work.

However, weekly wastewater results will now be published on our website at the following link: <https://www.esr.cri.nz/our-expertise/covid-19-response/wastewater-testing-results/>. The weekly report highlights sites tested since 11 September 2021.

**Your right to seek a review**

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this decision. Information about how to make a complaint is available at [www.ombudsman.parliament.nz](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz) or freephone 0800 802 602.

Thank you for your request.

Yours sincerely



Libby Harrison  
**Joint General Manager Health and Environment Group – Environment  
ESR**