

OIA Ref: CAS-01885-K4W4R8

19 December 2024

Matthew Jackson

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Tēnā koe Matthew,

Request for information relating to Drinking Water Safety Plans for schools

Thank you for your email dated 21 November 2024 requesting the following information be provided under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA):

“Please provide a list of the schools that have not submitted a Drinking Water Safety Plan.”

Our response to your request is set out below.

Response

Background

1. We became the water services regulator for Aotearoa New Zealand on 15 November 2021 with the commencement of the [Water Services Act 2021 \(the Act\)](#).
2. Our responsibilities include developing the [Drinking Water Standards](#) (Standards), and making the [Drinking Water Quality Assurance Rules](#) (the Rules), [Aesthetic Values](#) and [Acceptable Solutions](#). Collectively, these set minimum requirements for drinking water suppliers and help ensure communities receive safe drinking water.
3. [Section 8](#) of the Act outlines the meaning of ‘drinking water supplier’. Water suppliers have several duties under the Act, including the duty to supply safe drinking water. These broad statutory duties are complemented by more specific requirements set out in the Rules. There are different ways to fulfil these duties with a key component being the identification and management of risks associated with a supply.

Drinking Water Safety Plans

4. Under [section 30](#) of the Act, the owner of a drinking water supply must prepare a Drinking Water Safety Plan (DWSP) and lodge a copy with the Water Services Authority – Taumata Arowai (the Authority).
5. Preparing a DWSP is a risk management process. The plan should record the hazards and risks to drinking water supplies, and how the supplier will manage them to ensure that drinking water is safe. The plan must be proportionate to the scale and complexity of, and the risks that relate to, the drinking water supply.
6. The owners of registered supplies were required to lodge their first DWSPs under the Act by November 15, 2022. Whenever there are material changes to the DWSP, or it is replaced, then section 30(2)(a) requires the owner to lodge a copy of the amended or replacement DWSP with the Authority as soon as practicable.

7. Some suppliers do not need to prepare a DWSP if they are complying with an [Acceptable Solution](#). Suppliers can switch between lodging a DWSP and following the Rules, and following an Acceptable Solution at any time provided they notify the Authority of the change.

List of schools that have not lodged a plan

8. There are 418 Ministry of Education schools registered with us as drinking water suppliers.
9. A list of schools that have registered with the Authority as drinking water suppliers, but have not lodged a DWSP, is included as Appendix 1.
10. As of 26 November 2024, there were 232 Ministry of Education supplies registered with us without a DWSP who require one. Another 20 supplies have indicated to the Authority that they are using an Acceptable Solution and so do not need a DWSP. In Appendix 1 these are denoted by 'not applicable'.

For further information

11. Other resources related to your request are available to you here.
 - [Drinking water safety planning | Taumata Arowai](#)
 - [Water supply in schools - Ministry of Education](#)
 - [Schools that supply their own water - Ministry of Education](#)

Right to complain

You have the right by way of complaint to the Ombudsman under Section 28(3) of the OIA to seek an investigation and review of this response. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or freephone 0800 802 602.

Ngā mihi



Sara McFall
Head of Systems, Strategy and Performance