



22 MAR 2017

Phil Wheeler  
fyi-request-5444-6a9ea1de@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Mr Wheeler,

Thank you for your email of 24 February 2017 requesting the following information under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA):

*'...how the government defines "junk science", what specific criteria are used to measure and qualify "junk science" as opposed to more reliable science and how – and in what form – data should be put forward to ministers so as to ensure it does not meet this new threshold for "junk science".'*

We do not hold official information on the definition of 'junk science'. This means that if the term 'junk science' is used in Ministry correspondence we would intend the plain, ordinary meaning of the term.

There has been a significant amount of debate over the Government's Clean Water package and the new definition of swimmability proposed in the package of reforms. You can read more on the science surrounding the water quality attribute states for swimmability here: <http://www.mfe.govt.nz/fresh-water/freshwater-management-reforms/water-quality-swimming-categories-attribute-states-detail>

If you wish to make a submission on the Clean Water package, you may obtain a copy of the consultation document here: <http://www.mfe.govt.nz/fresh-water/freshwater-management-reforms/clean-water-package-2017>

Under section 28(3) of the OIA, you have the right to ask the Ombudsman to review my response to your request.

Yours sincerely

Martin Workman  
Director of Water