



West Coast District Health Board

Te Poari Hauora a Rohe o Tai Poutini

Corporate Office
High Street, Greymouth 7840

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12 July 2018

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[REDACTED]

RE: Official information request WCDHB 9152

We refer to your email dated 13 June 2018 requesting the following information under section 12 of the Official Information Act (the 'Act') from West Coast DHB regarding the dangers of spraydrift of pesticides and other chemicals.

- 1. Has this potential health hazard been seriously considered and investigated to date and if so, would you please make any and all investigation related to the possible risks of spraydrift during aerial 1080 operations.**

The cereal baits used in these operations are solid, not liquid, so they are not sprays i.e. not a liquid that is blown or driven through the air in tiny drops. As such, spraydrift from aerial 1080 operations cannot occur. The document which you attached to your email (*The Investigation and Surveillance of Agrichemical Spraydrift Incidents: Guidelines for Public Health Units*) states clearly on Page 4 that "complaints relating to solid pest control products (such as 1080 carrot baits or cyanide paste) ... are **not** within the scope of these guidelines".

- 2. My other question relates to the investigation of "clusters"...I have also been led to believe that local doctors who have been asked about these problems have advised by staff of the Ministry of Health to document them as commonly occurring illnesses with no relation to possible 1080 poisoning.**

No such advice has been provided by any staff of Community and Public Health to any West Coast doctor or nurse in response to any inquiry about possible 1080 poisoning, nor would it be. Any case of possible 1080 poisoning referred to public health staff would be investigated appropriately.

Perhaps it would be a good idea to conduct some sort of survey of residents to discover how great this concern actually is? Perhaps there are some clusters of certain symptoms or illnesses that are related to exposure to 1080 poison?

We are declining to comment on this under section 18(g) of the Official Information Act. This is not information which is held by Community and Public Health, West Coast or the West Coast District Health Board, so we are unable to provide responses to these questions.

If you disagree with our decision to withhold information you may, under section 28(3) of the Official Information Act, seek an investigation and review of our decision from the Ombudsman.

I trust that this satisfies your interest in this matter.

Please note that this response, or an edited version of this response, may be published on the West Coast DHB website ten working days after your receipt of this response.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Carolyn Gullery', with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

Carolyn Gullery
Executive Director
Planning, Funding & Decision Support