



# *West Coast District Health Board*

---

## *Te Poari Hauora a Rohe o Tai Poutini*

Corporate Office  
High Street, Greymouth 7840

Telephone 03 769-7400  
Fax 03 769-7791

13 December 2019

9(2)(a)

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

### **RE Official Information Act request WCDHB 9377**

I refer to your email, dated 24 November 2019, requesting the following information under the Official Information Act from West Coast DHB in relation to 1080 aerial drops of 1080 pellets. Specifically:

#### **As the local Medical Officer of Health authorises 1080 aerial drops of 1080 pellets:**

- 1. What monitoring will be done to ensure there is no public health risk from the contamination of Westport beaches from dead carcasses after the 1080 drop in the headwaters of the Buller River?**

The carcasses have been collected and buried. There is no public health risk, provided that people do not disturb the burial site and come into direct contact with the carcasses. As a general rule, people should avoid having direct contact with the bodies of dead animals (regardless of what has caused the animals to die), particularly when decomposition has set in.

- 2. As the official tests have found no 1080, as opposed to independent testing that has found presence of 1080 and other ingredients of 1080 pellets in several animal species, what possibilities will be investigated by health authorities?**

Public health authorities do not have responsibility for investigating animal deaths.

The provenance of the "independent testing" you refer to has yet to be established. The name of the testing laboratory and documentary evidence of its accreditation status in relation to the substances tested for has yet to be provided by either of the organisations which have reported that they commissioned the testing. By contrast, all this information is publicly available in respect of Landcare Research Ltd which carried out the initial testing.

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 after your receipt of this response.

Yours sincerely

Carolyn Gullery  
**Executive Director**  
Planning, Funding & Decision Support