

6 May 2022



### Response to a request for official information



Thank you for your request for official information received 4 April 2022 by Nelson Marlborough Health (NMH)<sup>1</sup>, followed by our query 5 April 2022 and the necessary extension of time 5 May 2022, where you seek the following information.

- 1. I am trying to find information regarding the frequency of testing of the drinking water supply from the Rarangi aquifer (specifically how frequently we test for arsenic).  
Would you have any information, chemical analyses or reports that could help to answer this?***

#### NMH response:

Registered community drinking water suppliers are required by their resource consent to do routine arsenic monitoring and report to their local Territorial Authority.

The *Annual Survey of Drinking Water Quality (2020-21)*

<https://www.health.govt.nz/publication/annual-report-drinking-water-quality-2020-2021> which NMH conducted for the Ministry of Health showed that one of the registered community drinking water suppliers taking water from the Rarangi Shallow Aquifer (RSA) tested two samples at six-monthly intervals for arsenic (as per their approved Water Safety Plan).

The arsenic in RSA is described in the publication *Groundwaters of Marlborough, Chapter 26* on the Marlborough District Council website: [ZA Chapter26.pdf \(marlborough.govt.nz\)](#)

This response has been provided under the Official Information Act 1982. You have the right to seek an investigation 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 free phone 0800 802 602. If you have any questions about this decision please feel free to email our OIA Coordinator [OIArequest@nmdhb.govt.nz](mailto:OIArequest@nmdhb.govt.nz)

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<sup>1</sup> Nelson Marlborough District Health Board

I trust this information meets your requirements. NMH, like other agencies across the state sector, supports the open disclosure of information to assist the public's understanding of how we are delivering publicly-funded healthcare. This includes the proactive publication of anonymised Official Information Act responses on our website from 10 working days after they have been released. If you feel that there are good reasons why your response should not be made publicly available, we will be happy to consider.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Lexie O'Shea', with a stylized, cursive script.

Lexie O'Shea  
**Chief Executive**