

OIR: 2425/1205

20 December 2024

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Tēnā koe [REDACTED]

**Request for Information under the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 (the Act) (the LGOIMA)**

Thank you for your email of **2 December 2024** requesting the following information:

- 1. Please include all internal correspondence, including domain names and email addresses in resolving this request***

The request was assigned to subject matter experts through our task system to let them know the request had been received and the timeframes for responding to the request. Staff had various discussions on the approach to the response either in person or via teams calls. Notes were not taken during those meetings and the response was provided directly into this letter.

- 2. Can you please provide details for the Council delivered drinking water testing done from all sites***
  - a. How often is it tested***

Council has continuous monitoring at all water treatment plants to monitor compliance with the Drinking Water Standards. The Taumata Arowai Drinking Water Quality Assurance Rules sets out sampling requirements for Source Water, Water Treatment and Distribution Sampling. Kapiti Coast needs to comply with the S3–Source Water, T3–Treatment and D3-Distribution Requirements and sampling is carried out that meets these rules. The frequency of sampling requirements is set out in these rules.

- b. How often is it tested independently***

The testing requirements are set-out in the Drinking Water Quality Assurance Rules – Section G8 sets out the following.

*Please note that any information provided in response to your request may be published on the Council website, with your personal details removed.*

All water samples that require laboratory analysis and are used to demonstrate compliance with these Rules must be:

1. analysed by a laboratory accredited by IANZ for the type of analysis being undertaken; and
2. collected according to any instructions and specifications provided by the laboratory.

### **3. What are the fluoridation levels?**

The MAV (Maximum acceptable value) set out in the Water Services (Drinking Water Standards for New Zealand) Regulations 2022 for Fluoride is 1.5 mg/L. The Waikanae Water Treatment Plant doses the treated water to achieve 0.85 mg/L. For more information on treatment processes. Refer to <https://www.kapiticoast.govt.nz/services/waters/water-supply/treatment/>

### **4. What are the Chlorination levels?**

The MAV (Maximum acceptable value) set out in the Water Services (Drinking Water Standards for New Zealand) Regulations 2022 for Chlorine is 5.0 mg/L. Water Treatment Plants in Kapiti Coast dose the treated water to achieve at differing set points. Hautere 1.2mg/l Otaki 1.1mg/l Waikanae 1.0 mg/l and Paekakariki 1.1 mg/l.

### **5. What chemicals and or products are added to the drinking water supply?**

The following chemicals are added to the drinking water supply;

- Aluminium Sulphate / Poly Aluminium Chloride (Waikanae WTP) - Pre-treatment
- Polyelectrolite (Waikanae WTP) - Pre-treatment
- Hydrated Lime (Waikanae WTP)
- Sodium silicofluoride (Waikanae WTP)
- Gas chlorine (All WTP's)
- Sodium hydroxide (Otaki WTPs)
- Sodium carbonate (Hautere WTP)

### **6. Provide all the complete test results for the period of 1/12/2022 through to 1/12/2024**

#### **a. The preferred method would be in a searchable electronic spreadsheet format**

This part of your request is refused under section 17(f) of the Act as the information requested cannot be made available without substantial collation or research. Testing across the district is constant and continuous, with millions of results produced every year. We do not hold this information in a form that could be combined into a searchable electronic spreadsheet. To run reports to provide that information for this time period across the whole district would require a significant outlay of staff time. Staff would have to spend a substantial

amount of time collating these millions of records for your request. Consideration has been given to whether your request could be further refined. However, in this particular situation we do not consider this would be possible. I have also considered whether we would be able to respond to this part of your request given extra time, or the ability to charge for the information requested. I have concluded that, in either case, the Council's ability to undertake its day to day work would be significantly impacted.

While we cannot provide this information, please find below an explanation of our processes and confirmation that we are fully compliant with requirements and standards.

The process to determine the sampling requirements in KCDC involves assessing the Drinking Water Assurance Rules for each of the water treatment plants, water sources, and distribution systems. This includes understanding and mitigating the risks associated with surface water and ground water and then determining the Treatment Needs of each plant such as the need for filtration, disinfection (like chlorination or UV treatment), and regular monitoring. To ensure water remains safe, KCDC as a suppliers needed to set up monitoring and testing processes. The drinking water quality assurance rules specify how often and where testing must happen, including:

- At the treatment plant – to ensure the water is clean before it enters the system.
- In the distribution network (pipes and storage tanks) – to check it stays safe as it travels to homes and businesses.
- At the source – to monitor changes in water quality over time.

The testing includes checking for harmful bacteria, chemicals, and other contaminants.

KCDC is required to report results to Taumata Arowai (The drinking Water Regulator) as either compliant or non-compliant, with transgressions investigated and reported by exception when KCDC does not achieve the required standard. This ensures the regulator knows that the water is being managed safely and meets legal standards. If there are any issues, like contamination or unsafe levels of a contaminant, KCDC must act quickly to fix the problem and inform both the regulator, and the people affected.

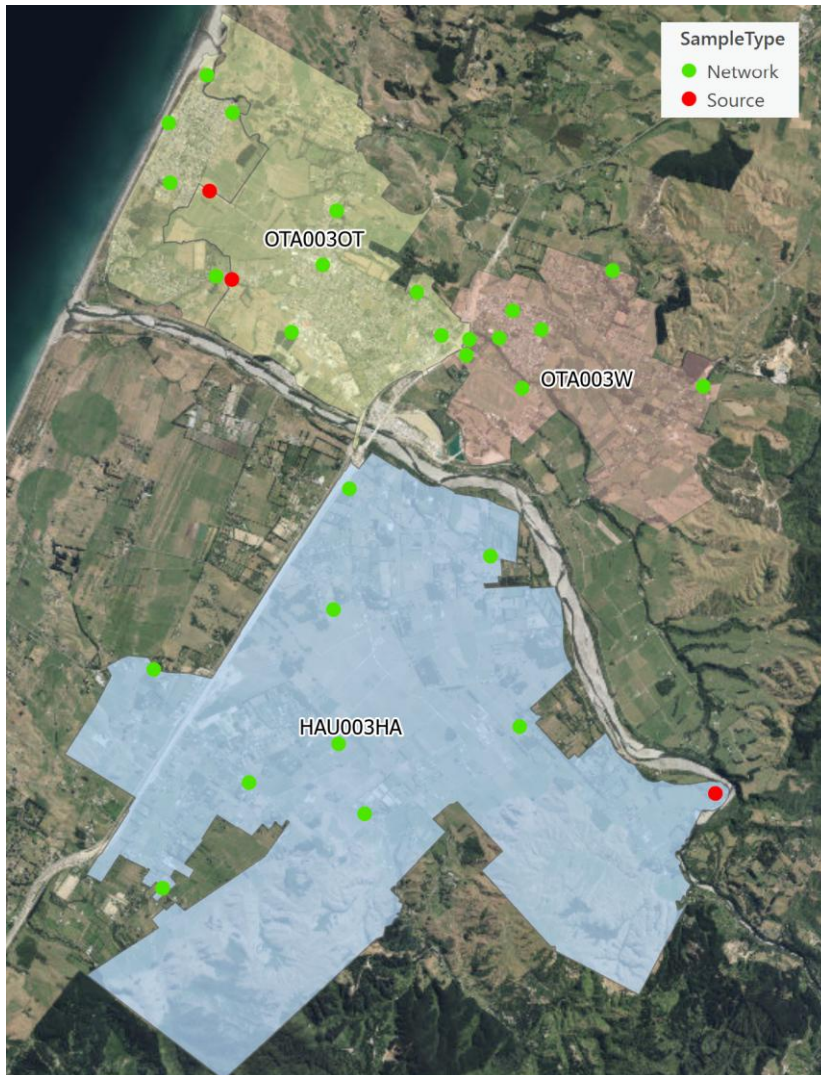
Summary of Key Steps:

1. Identify the water source and its risks.
2. Follow the rules to determine the required water treatment.
3. Set up testing processes to monitor the water at key points.
4. Report the results to Taumata Arowai and take action if something goes wrong.

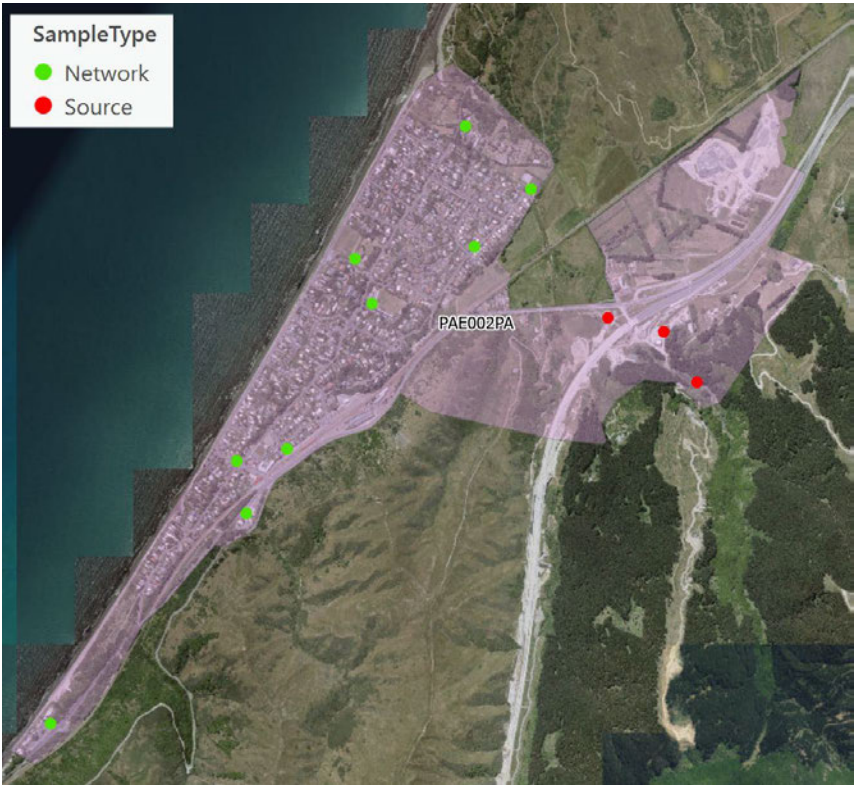
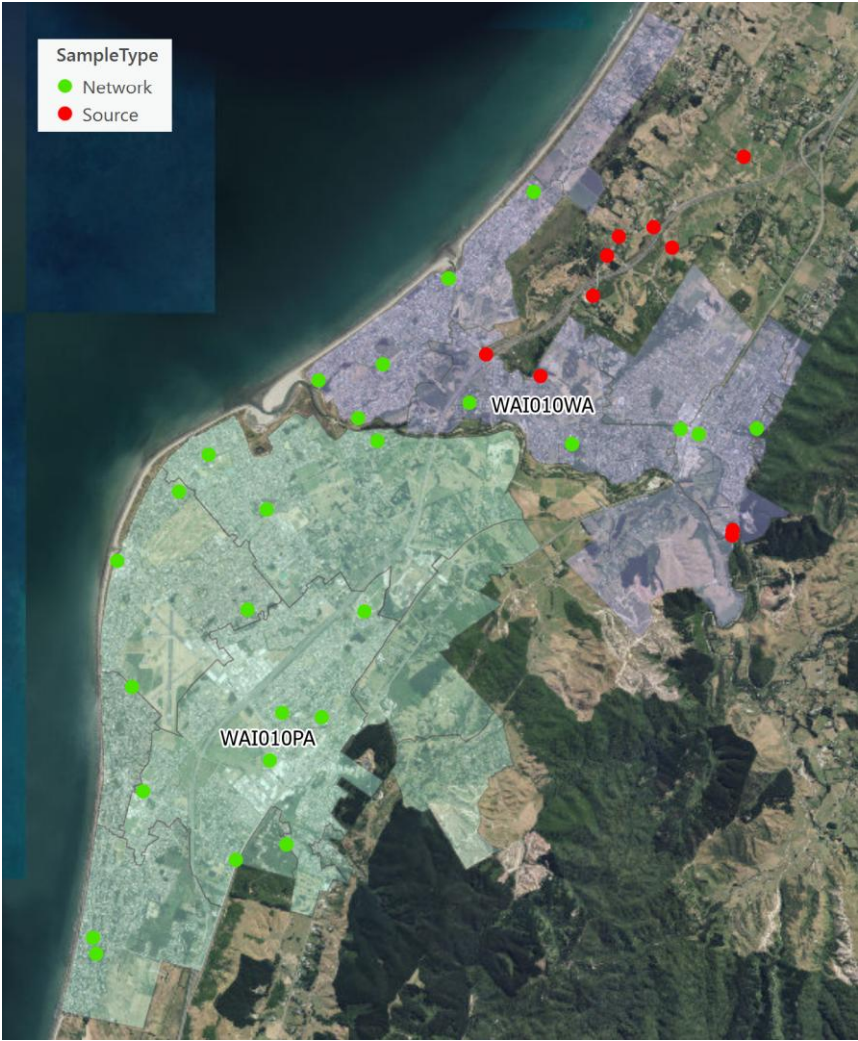
We do online continuous monitoring that collects data every second for hundreds of parameters. There are over 20 parameters required for calculating compliance at the Water Treatment Plants, these include turbidity, chlorine, flow, turbidity, UV outputs and valve statuses. The inputs from these parameters are run through a set of minute by minute calculations to produce

summary statistics that align with the T3 - Treatment Report Template. A single spreadsheet would not be able to contain all test results. We use the Water Outlook database to generate specific reports, and we can run the appropriate report to provide required information.

Below are sample points across the district







*Please note that any information provided in response to your request may be published on the Council website, with your personal details removed.*

You have the right to request the Ombudsman to review this decision. Complaints can be sent by email to [info@ombudsman.parliament.nz](mailto:info@ombudsman.parliament.nz), or by post to The Ombudsman, PO Box 10152, Wellington 6143.

Ngā mihi,



**Sean Mallon**

Group Manager Infrastructure and Asset Management  
Kaiwhakahaere Rōpū Anga me te Whakahaere Rawa