

9 June 2021

Thomas Mead  
Christchurch Reporter  
TVNZ  
[thomas.mead@tvnz.co.nz](mailto:thomas.mead@tvnz.co.nz)

REF: OIA-8022

Dear Thomas

**Request made under the Official Information Act 1982**

Thank you for your email of 27 April 2021 requesting the following information under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

1. *The total litre amount of glyphosate (or product containing glyphosate) purchased by the NZTA nationwide in the last three full financial years. Please break this down further by region, and include the amount paid;*
2. *The total litre amount of glyphosate actually sprayed/used by the NZTA nationwide in the last three years. This could be either financial year to match the numbers above, or calendar year, depending what is easier to collate. Please also break this down further by region.*
3. *Any internal documentation that is used by the NZTA to regulate safety while spraying this chemical; including but not limited to safety requirements or expectations given to contractors, guidelines for use around the public, or any internal document produced by the NZTA in response to the finding by the WHO's International Agency for Research on Cancer in 2015, which identified glyphosate as "probably carcinogenic to humans.."*

I will answer each of your questions in turn.

**Question one and two**

Please refer to the below table for the amount of glyphosate used in the last three financial years.

	Glyphosate Usage in litre					
	2019		2020		2021	
	Purchased	Sprayed	Purchased	Sprayed	Purchased	Sprayed
Southland	1500	1500	1500	1500	1480	1480
Coastal Otago	1755	1755	1755	1755	1755	1755
Central Otago	1200	1200	1200	1200	1200	1200
South Canterbury	758	758	619	619	802	802
North Canterbury	1057	1057	685	685	1139	1139
Marlborough	485	485	485	485	485	485
West Coast	356	356	661	661	429	429
Nelson/Tasman	1933	1789	1933	1789	1933	1789
Wellington	600	600	590	590	690	690
Manawatu-Wanganui	1200	1200	1650	1650	500	500

	Glyphosate Usage in litre					
Taranaki	1490	1490	1460	1460	1470	1470
Hawke's Bay	800	800	800	800	800	800
Gisborne	1620	1620	1620	1620	1620	1620
Bay of Plenty West	3250	3250	3020	3020	2380	2380
Bay of Plenty East	1400	1400	1400	1400	1400	1400
West Waikato	1762	1762	1522	1522	1567	1567
East Waikato	1300	1300	1100	1100	750	750
Central Waikato	1800	1800	1600	1600	1700	1700
Northland	8021	8021	7732	7732	7736	7736
Auckland	TBC*	TBC*	TBC*	TBC*	TBC*	TBC*
Milford	40	40	40	40	40	40
<b>Total</b>	<b>30087</b>	<b>29943</b>	<b>29132</b>	<b>28988</b>	<b>27636</b>	<b>27492</b>

\* to be confirmed

While all effort was made to provide the glyphosate usage for the Auckland region within the specified time, Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency is still collating this information. This is because the amounts are not stored within a centralised system and requires an extensive search through a large amount of information to pull the figures required. Therefore, I have made a decision to grant this part of your request and the information will be provided to you without undue delay, on or before 16 June 2021.

Please note, Waka Kotahi is unable to disclose the amount paid for the glyphosate purchased in the last three financial years due to commercial sensitivities. Additionally, spraying of weeds on the state highway is completed as a Lump Sum activity; meaning the rate paid by Waka Kotahi includes spraying, mowing, sightline clearance, traffic management, litter control, detritus removal, and environmental management. Additionally, the rate paid by Waka Kotahi also takes into account the requirement for contractors to maintain a particular level of service, not for a quantity sprayed. I am therefore withholding this information under section 9(2)(b)(ii) to protect the information where the making available of the information would be likely unreasonably to prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied or who is the subject of the information. An average rate of \$5.85 per litre, however, has been determined from our suppliers and could be applied to the above.

### Question three

Waka Kotahi does not have any documents to regulate safety specifically to glyphosate. I am therefore refusing this part of the request under section 18(e) of the Act as the information does not exist. Waka Kotahi does, however, provide guidance for its supply chain partners with health and safety expectations, this information is available at:

<https://nzta.govt.nz/resources/contractor-health-and-safety-expectations/>

With respect to the information that has been withheld, I do not consider there are any other factors which would render it desirable, in the public interest, to make the information available.

Under section 28 of the Act, you have the right to ask the Ombudsman to review my decision to withhold part of this information and refuse part this request. The contact details for the Ombudsman can be located at [www.ombudsman.parliament.nz](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz).

If you would like to discuss this reply with the Waka Kotahi, please contact Andrew Knackstedt, Senior Media Manager, by email on [andrew.knackstedt@nzta.govt.nz](mailto:andrew.knackstedt@nzta.govt.nz) or by phone on 021 276 3222.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'W. Oldfield', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

**Wayne Oldfield**

Senior Manager Maintenance and Operations