



26 August 2022

§ 9(2)(a)

By email: § 9(2)(a)

Ref: H202209012

Tēnā koe § 9(2)(a)

Response to your request for official information

Thank you for your request under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) to Manatū Hauora (Ministry of Health) on 30 July 2022 for information relating to cell towers and 5G technology. You specifically requested:

“As thousands of new cell towers have been erected across NZ since the first lockdown (2020) to accommodate the roll-out of new 5G technology and ever-increasing use of wireless EMR in the public and private sectors, when were the EMR emissions from these towers last measured according to the international safety standards updated by the ICNIRP in 2020?...and specifically, the measuring of tower emissions on Waiheke Island?”

The only information that Manatū Hauora holds on electromagnetic fields (EMF) emissions from specific sites is publicly available at: www.health.govt.nz/our-work/environmental-health/non-ionising-radiation/independent-cellsite-monitoring. These measurements are commissioned by the mobile network operators, not Manatū Hauora, but are posted on our website so that they are readily available to interested parties, and to complement other information about cellphone sites on the Manatū Hauora website. For further information about those results, you should contact the mobile network operators using the contact information on that web page.

Legal obligations to monitor exposures from cellphone sites are set out in the Resource Management (National Environmental Standards for Telecommunication Facilities) Regulations 2016 under the Resource Management Act 1991. These regulations are administered by the Ministry for the Environment (MfE) and local authorities. There is some information available on the MfE website at: <https://environment.govt.nz/acts-and-regulations/regulations/national-environmental-standards-for-telecommunication-facilities/>, and you may wish to contact MfE for further details. If you would like to find out whether these regulations have required measurements at any sites on Waiheke Island, you may wish to contact the Auckland Council at: www.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/about-auckland-council/privacy-official-information-requests/Pages/request-official-information-online.aspx.

I trust this information fulfils your request. Under section 28(3) of the Act, you have the right to ask the Ombudsman to review any decisions made under this request. The Ombudsman may be contacted by email at: info@ombudsman.parliament.nz or by calling 0800 802 602.

Please note that this response, with your personal details removed, may be published on the Manatū Hauora website at: www.health.govt.nz/about-ministry/information-releases/responses-official-information-act-requests.

Nāku noa, nā

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A. Old', written in a cursive style.

Dr Andrew Old
Deputy-Director General
Public Health Agency