



West Coast District Health Board

Te Poari Hauora a Rohe o Tai Poutini

Corporate Office
High Street, Greymouth 7840

Telephone 03 769-7400
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23 March 2018

[REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

RE Official information request WCDHB 9087

I refer to your email dated 2 February 2018 to [REDACTED] requesting the following information under section 12 of the Official Information Act from West Coast DHB.

- 1. Can you please provide information as to the symptoms of 1080 poisoning from inhalation of the 1080 dust and NOT by ingestion.**

The advice we have been given after requesting comment on this matter from the Ministry of Health is that symptoms of 1080 poisoning are likely to be similar regardless of whether the toxin is ingested or inhaled. While it is possible that dust from 1080 baits may cause eye irritation, there is no evidence that 1080 itself (technical grade) acts as an eye irritant, and the cereal component of the baits is more likely to be the cause of any irritant symptoms.

- 2. What are you doing to protect the people of Hector from 1080 dust from drops, and are you aware that deliberate poisoning of people is a criminal offence?**

The 1080 drop to which you refer is subject to the usual controls on operations of this kind, including a public health permission. This requires, amongst other things, the operator to exclude Hector and other townships (and their drinking water intakes) from the operational area. The operator will also not be applying any toxin on the seaward side of the ridgeline north of Hector but will instead be applying the toxin below the top of the ridgeline on the eastern side using a trickle bucket. This means that it is extremely unlikely that any dust will drift anywhere near Hector.

Yes, I am aware that deliberate poisoning is a criminal offence under s200 of the Crimes Act 1961.

- 3. Can you provide information as to how we are to avoid breathing in the toxic dust, without leaving the area and being inconvenienced? See part (2)**

Please see response above to your second question. Provided the conditions imposed on this aerial 1080 operation are complied with, it is extremely unlikely that you or other residents of Hector will be put in the position of breathing toxic dust. You may wish to close your windows and doors on the day of the operation if you are particularly concerned.

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.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Carolyn Gullery', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Carolyn Gullery
General Manager,
Planning, Funding & Decision Support