

OIR: 2223/545

17 May 2023



Kia ora ,

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

Thank you for your email of 10 May 2023 requesting the following information:

I am writing on behalf of Students for Sensible Drug Policy Aotearoa, regarding the use of chemical pesticides in areas where foragers may be collecting mushrooms. In accordance with the LGOIMA 1987, we would like to request the following information:

- 1. What chemicals (pesticides, herbicides, fungicides etc.) does the council apply to areas of wood chip or bark mulch on council owned and / or operated parks, recreational areas, and reserves (any public area where people may be foraging for mushrooms)?***

Council uses either an organic weed killer such as pine oil or a glyphosate-based weed killer such as 'Roundup' for general weed control on wood chip or bark mulch areas. In playgrounds containing soft fall bark the preference is to remove mushrooms by raking out and spreading lime or spraying using an organic based weedkiller.

- 2. What chemicals (pesticides, herbicides, fungicides etc.) does the council apply to grass areas on council owned and / or operated parks, recreational areas, and reserves (any public area where people may be foraging for mushrooms)?***

As noted above, Council uses either an organic weedkiller such as pine oil, a glyphosate-based weed killer (Roundup) for general weed control or triclopyr (Conquest) for targeted weed control.

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

3. What steps are undertaken to notify the public about areas that have been sprayed?

Physical signage is left at the spray site until the withholding period has passed.

4. Does the council spray any areas as a response to the growth of illegal (psilocybin containing) mushrooms?

If reported, council will remove any type of mushroom (not just psilocybin containing) in playground areas by raking and liming the area.

Ngā mihi



Sean Mallon

Group Manager Infrastructure Services
Te Kaihautū Ratonga Pakiaka