

13 May 2025

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
Sent via email to [REDACTED]

**LG25-0083 - Shotover Wastewater test results**

Dear [REDACTED],

**REQUEST FOR OFFICIAL INFORMATION – RELEASE OF INFORMATION**

Thank you for your request for information held by the Queenstown Lakes District Council (QLDC). On 3 April 2025 you requested the following information under the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 (LGOIMA):

**Thank you for posting the WWTP results dated 31/3/2025 on your website. We would ask, under LGOIMA, for QLDC to please provide answers to the following questions.**

- 1. The test results published on your website show that the test samples were taken on 31/3/2025 at midnight and the sample was analysed on 1/4/2025 at 8:30 AM. Can you please advise how long the samples were cultured for E. coli and what the industry standards and/or consent standards are for the length of time a sample should be cultured for the presence of E. coli.**
- 2. Can you please advise the exact location of where the test sample for these published results, and for all future published test results, are taken from.**
- 3. It appears from the test results you have published that the sample was taken by Veolia. Can you confirm it was Veolia that took the samples.**
- 4. Can you please advise what independent testing is planned, who will carry out those independent tests, and how often the independent tests will be taken and published.**
- 5. Can you please advise where we will find the consent levels for contaminants are documented.**

**QLDC RESPONSE**

**Release of information**

In response to your request, we consulted with the QLDC Property and Infrastructure Team.

- 1. The test results published on your website show that the test samples were taken on 31/3/2025 at midnight and the sample was analysed on 1/4/2025 at 8:30 AM. Can you please advise how long the samples were cultured for E. coli and what the industry standards and/or consent standards are for the length of time a sample should be cultured for the presence of E. coli.**

The test result published was a preliminary certificate, and not all fields had been completed at the time of publication. As such, the sample time displayed was a placeholder. The actual sample was collected at 9:00 AM on 31 March 2025.

The testing was carried out by Eurofins at their Invercargill laboratory using membrane filtration methods. Eurofins is an International Accreditation New Zealand-accredited laboratory. Based on our current understanding, E. coli samples are typically cultured for 24 hours; however, we have not independently confirmed this timeframe with Eurofins.

**2. Can you please advise the exact location of where the test sample for these published results, and for all future published test results, are taken from.**

This sample, as with all final effluent samples, was collected immediately downstream of the UV disinfection plant, at the point of discharge from the treatment compound. To provide greater clarity, a map indicating the exact sampling location has now been added to the website.

**3. It appears from the test results you have published that the sample was taken by Veolia. Can you confirm it was Veolia that took the samples.**

Weekly samples, which are collected for operational monitoring, are taken by Veolia operators. Monthly compliance samples, however, are collected directly by Eurofins. The sample dated 31 March 2025 was collected by a Veolia operator as part of the routine weekly sampling.

**4. Can you please advise what independent testing is planned, who will carry out those independent tests, and how often the independent tests will be taken and published.**

Samples of the treated wastewater at the point of discharge, along with a range of environmental samples, will be taken on a weekly basis. The locations of the environmental monitoring sites are available on the website. While the majority of samples will be collected by Veolia staff, both GHD and Eurofins may also be involved in sample collection at various times. All samples will be analysed by Eurofins.

**5. Can you please advise where we will find the consent levels for contaminants are documented.**

The consent is available on the Otago Regional Council website under consent reference [RM13.215.03.V2](#). For ease of reference, the relevant quality requirements have also been reproduced below.

Parameter	95%ile	Annual Mean
BOD <sub>5</sub> (g/m <sup>3</sup> )	50	30
TSS (g/m <sup>3</sup> )	50	30
TN (g/m <sup>3</sup> )	35	23
E.Coli (cfu/100ml)	260 (90% ile)	260 geomean

Please note that the enclosed link will expire on 12 June 2025, 10:15 AM.

We trust the above information satisfactorily answers your request.

Kind regards,



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