

Tuesday 13 February 2024

**OIA IRO-568**

Name: [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]@gmail.com

Kia ora [REDACTED]

**Official information request regarding shared pipes.**

Thank you for your official information request dated Sunday 24 December 2023, you requested the following:

1. “Do happen to know approximately what percentage of property in Wellington residential and commercial homes that have shared pipes for waste water and sewage on the same land?”
2. “With the new resource consent laws on on multi dwelling on one property, do they have restrictions on shared pipes or do the the developers/home owner can use the existing drainage pipes and share the same?”
3. “Also what percentage of new town houses and developments in Wellington region are using the shared pipe infrastructure?”

On Monday 15 January 2024 your request was transferred to us in full by Wellington City Council (WCC).

We have considered your request in accordance with the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 (the Act) and determined that we are able to provide part of the information you have requested.

In response to your second question, under the requirements of the [Regional Standard for Water Services 2021 v3](#), each individual dwelling on a lot is required to have a separate connection to a public main. However, this is only applicable where a subdivision consent is necessary, or where the Council bylaw makes compliance with this Standard a requirement.

Dispensation can be sought for departure from the Regional Standard for Water Services to enable shared private drains. However, approval of these is at the discretion of Wellington Water and Wellington City Council. Currently in the case where new shared private drains are approved, ownership and operational/maintenance requirements are clearly outlined to ensure the risks are mitigated.

Pursuant to [Section 17\(e\)](#) of the Act, and for the reasons set out in turn, we are unable to provide you with information for your first and third question.

As Wellington Water doesn't hold information on shared private wastewater or stormwater pipes, we are unable to provide an answer to the questions of what percentage of properties/dwellings (new or existing) have shared pipes.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this decision. Information about how to make a complaint is available at [www.ombudsman.parliament.nz](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz) or freephone 0800 802 602.

Ngā mihi,



**Group Manager, Network Strategy and Planning**

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Wellington Water is owned by the Hutt, Porirua, Upper Hutt and Wellington City Councils, South Wairarapa District Council and Greater Wellington Regional Council. We manage their drinking water, wastewater and stormwater services.