

From: noreply@orc.govt.nz
To: [Official Information](#)
Subject: New Official Information Act (OIA) request
Date: Friday, 13 March 2026 7:35:52 p.m.

Official Information Request Form

A customer has submitted the following Official Information Request Form via the ORC website:

First name: 7(2)(a)

Last name: 7(2)(a)

Please enter your email address: 7(2)(a)@tvnz.co.nz

Phone number: 7(2)(a)

Please enter the details of your request. Provide as much information as possible.:
Tēnā koutou

Could I please request under the OIA:

A list of all the swimming sites you had to close as 'unsuitable for swimming' between 1 December 2025 and 28 Feb 2026 due to poor water quality.

And how many days each site was closed.

A list of all the swimming sites you had to close as 'unsuitable for swimming' between 1 December 2024 and 28 Feb 2025 due to poor water quality.

And how many days each site was closed.

Please provide this as two separate excel tables, one for each year, with 'locations' as rows and 'number of days' as columns.

Ngā manaakitanga

Attach a document which might support this application.:

Please tick the box below to proceed.:

Kā mihi,

Otago Regional Council

Released via email on 15 April 2026

Kia ora 7(2)(a)

Your official information request received by us on 16 March 2026 for Swimming sites – Water quality has been granted. You requested:

- A list of all the swimming sites we have had to close as ‘unsuitable for swimming’ due to poor water quality; and
- How many days each swimming site was closed between 1 December 2025 to 28 February 2026 and 1 December 2024 to 28 February 2025:

Otago Regional Council (ORC) does not close swimming sites. The power to restrict access to a beach or river due to a public health risk (e.g., high bacteria levels) lies with the Medical Officer of Health, not ORC or other local authorities, unless directed by the Medical Officer under the Health Act 1956.

ORC takes water samples and uses trigger levels (included in the national Microbiological Water Quality Guidelines for Marine and Freshwater Recreational Areas) to evaluate weekly test results for summer swimming sites.

These water results are used by ORC to inform the public about potential health risks. The public can then choose whether to swim at a site or not, and if they do, they do so at their own risk when a warning is in place.

A total of 32 swimming sites are monitored across the region. Further information can be found at [Recreational water quality in Otago](#) and [Land, Air, Water Aotearoa \(LAWA\) - Can I Swim Here?](#) The attached spreadsheet details the number of samples which returned a result above the ‘unsuitable for swimming’ trigger level for E. coli or Enterococci for the period 1 Dec – 28 Feb for the 2024-25 and for 2025-26 monitoring seasons.

Council is publishing this LGOIMA on our website, in line with our proactive release policy.

Kā mihi,

7(2)(a)



Legal

legal@orc.govt.nz



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LGOIMA SR.23341 – a request for all instances of swimming sites deemed ‘unsuitable for swimming’ over the periods December – February 2024/25 and 2025/26 by TVNZ

2024-25

Monitored Swim Site	Samples exceeding 540 MPN/100 mL E. coli or 280 MPN/100 mL Enterococci (for coastal/marine sites)
Clutha River at Dunorling Street	1
Lake Hawea at Swimming Embayment	1
Manuherekia River at Shaky Bridge	1
Otago Harbour at MacAndrew Bay	1
Otokia Creek at Brighton Road Bridge	3
Pacific Ocean at Lawyers Head Beach	1
Pacific Ocean at Tomahawk Beach (East)	1
Pacific Ocean at Tomahawk Beach (West)	1
Taieri River at Outram	2
Taieri River at Waipiata	1
Waikouaiti River at Bucklands	1

2025-26

Monitored Swim Site	Samples exceeding 540 MPN/100 mL E. coli or 280 MPN/100 mL Enterococci (for coastal/marine sites)
Taieri River at Outram	5
Otokia Creek at Brighton Road Bridge	1
Waikouaiti Estuary	1
Otago Harbour at MacAndrew Bay	1
Kakanui Estuary at Kakanui Bridge	2
Pacific Ocean at Tomahawk Beach (West)	2
Pacific Ocean at Smalls Beach	1