

OIA22-0624

30 August 2022

Felix Lee
fyi-request-19963-944bdbfb@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Felix Lee

Thank you for your email of 22 July 2022 requesting information relating to a woman being refused entry to New Zealand after trying to smuggle in lemons. Your request has been considered under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA).

You requested the following:

In 2016 there was a woman who was refused entry to NZ after trying to smuggle in lemons.

Source: www.nzherald.co.nz/nz/woman-caught-trying-to-smuggle-in-lemons/5ECHODPLYXTB4OASFDUSDVQSSM/

I would like to request the files related to this incident.

The Link you provided did not bring up the article, however we have interpreted your request to be about the incident discussed in the following article:

<https://www.nzherald.co.nz/nz/woman-caught-trying-to-smuggle-in-lemons/5ECHODPLYXTB4OASFDUSDVQSSM/>.

MPI cannot find any files related to this incident, therefore your request is declined pursuant to section 18(e) of the OIA - *that the document alleged to contain the information, despite reasonable efforts to locate it, cannot be found.*

MPI has several options in dealing with passengers attempting to smuggle risk items into New Zealand through air travel. One of those is to refer the passenger back to the Immigration line, where they are re-assessed by an Immigration Officer as to their suitability to enter New Zealand. This occurred in this case and the passenger was refused entry.

Should you have any concerns with this response, I would encourage you to raise these with the Ministry for Primary Industries at Official.InformationAct@mpi.govt.nz. Alternatively, you are advised of your right to also raise any concerns with the Office of the Ombudsman. Contact details are: Office of the Ombudsman, PO Box 10152, Wellington 6143 or at info@ombudsman.parliament.nz.

Yours sincerely



Sharon Tohovaka
Acting Northern Regional Commissioner