



OIA22-0804

15 December 2022

Charles Derbyshire
fyi-request-20859-992491b4@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Charles,

Thank you for your email of 15 October 2022 requesting information for all correspondence between the Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) and Barbara Kuriger using her parliamentary email address. Your request has been considered under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA).

MPI has received and accepted the findings of an independent review into its investigation of Oxbow Dairies and Tony Kuriger for animal welfare offences.

The report, by King's Counsel Michael Heron and Erin McGill found:

- The MPI investigation was adequate, was conducted in accordance with the MPI Prosecution Policy and Solicitor-General's Prosecution Guidelines, and was not motivated by any improper purpose.
- Mrs Kuriger's complaints about the investigation are not made out and, in any event, did not impact on the adequacy of the investigation.
- MPI's response to Mrs Kuriger's June 2020 complaint that no further investigation was required was appropriate.
- MPI's correspondence with the Kurigers following the June 2020 complaint was handled appropriately and respectfully.

The Ministry performs an important function to enforce New Zealand's laws. We are satisfied that our actions were appropriate and met the professional standards required for our investigations. We consider this the end of the matter.

We attach a copy of the full report which is also available on MPI's website, [here](#).

You requested

I would like to know if any of the communication Barbara Kuriger has had with MPI about this dispute has taken place between MPI and her parliamentary (or any .govt.nz) email address, has been signed off with letterhead or a signature relating to her office, or indeed if she has drawn attention to or represented her office in any way in communication with MPI about this personal matter.

On 8 November 2022 MPI extended the time limit to respond to your request to 15 December 2022.

Please find attached all correspondence between MPI and Barbara Kuriger using her parliamentary email address, attached as Appendix One.

Some information has been withheld pursuant to the following sections of the OIA:

- Section 9(2)(a) – *to protect the privacy of natural persons.*
- Section 9(2)(h) - *to maintain legal professional privilege.*

MPI is satisfied that in the circumstances of this case, the withholding of the information is not outweighed by other considerations which render it desirable in the public interest to make the information available.

I trust the information provided is of assistance. 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



Michelle Morehu
Director, Government Services