



OIA23-0672

15 December 2023

Matt Sykes
fyi-request-24586-2e099f6d@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Matt Sykes,

Thank you for your email of 30 October 2023 requesting information relating to animal welfare complaints made to MPI concerning 141 Upper Fitzherbert Road. Your request has been considered under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA).

You requested the following:

Please supply all information relating to Animal Welfare Complaints or Animal Welfare Visits pertaining to 141 Upper Fitzherbert Road, Wainuiomata, Lower Hutt 5014 during the period 1 January 2021 to 25 October 2023.

On 27 November 2023 MPI extended the time limit to respond to your request to 11 December 2023.

Under section 16(1)(e) of the OIA, a summary of the information is released to you. The requested information is withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the OIA—to protect the privacy of natural persons. 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.

There is one case file relevant to your request. On 22 June 2023, a complaint was made to MPI concerning some alpacas and sheep located at 141 Upper Fitzherbert Road.

On 30 June 2023, an MPI Animal Welfare Inspector visited the property and observed the sheep and alpacas. The animals appeared to display normal behaviours, and they appeared to be free from obvious injury. The paddock had suitable shelter, and the stock water appeared to be clean. No animal welfare concerns were noted.

The property owner was not home at the time of the Animal Welfare Inspector's visit, but they called later that day in response to the notice of entry left by the Inspector. The property owner stated that they have owned the alpacas for four years. They feed the animals daily, and the alpacas are shorn annually. The Inspector gave some general advice on caring for the animals before ending the call.

The Animal Welfare Inspector recommended that no further action be taken, and the case file was subsequently closed. As there have been no further complaints since the Inspector's

visit, MPI has no reason to be concerned with the welfare of the animals located at 141 Upper Fitzherbert Road.

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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Glen Burrell', with a stylized, cursive script.

Glen Burrell
Director, Compliance and Response