



OIA24-0737

6 November 2024

Nick Young
fyi-request-28695-092909d5@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Nick Young

Thank you for your email of 8 October 2024 requesting information relating to the Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) *Improving our Efficiency* change proposal. Your request has been considered under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA).

As part of the Budget 2024/25 programme, MPI was asked by the Government to find savings of 7.5 percent per annum starting from the financial year starting 1 July 2024.

MPI launched consultation on its *Improving our Efficiency* change proposal on 21 March 2024. The change aimed at ensuring MPI continues to deliver its core functions effectively and with greater efficiency.

MPI received around 1,500 submissions. MPI carefully considered all feedback, and final decisions were released on 16 May.

The total number of net disestablished positions across MPI is slightly higher than the original proposal at 391 compared with 384 in March.

Importantly, MPI has not made any reductions to frontline services and statutory roles, such as veterinarians, animal welfare, fishery and food compliance officers, or biosecurity teams at the border.

MPI have reduced the impact on affected staff through holding vacancies, offering early redundancy, and retaining additional roles in some business units.

You requested the following:

In early 2024, MPI commenced a range of structural changes across the organisation in order to meet Government's savings goals. Could you please provide:

- *The individual staff and industry submissions (identified as either staff or industry) made on the change proposals for New Zealand Food Safety and Corporate Services*
- *Correspondence with submitters*
- *Analysis of submissions*

Copies of the full submissions are withheld in accordance with the following sections of the OIA:

- 9(2)(a) – *to protect the privacy of natural persons.*
- 9(2)(ba)(i) - *protect information which is subject to an obligation of confidence or which any person has been or could be compelled to provide under the authority of any enactment, where the making available of the information would be likely to prejudice the supply of similar information, or information from the same source, and it is in the public interest that such information should continue to be supplied.*

- 9(2)(g)(i) – *to maintain the effective conduct of public affairs through the free and frank expression of opinions by or between or to Ministers of the Crown or members of an organisation or officers and employees of any department or organisation in the course of their duty.*

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.

However please note that documents relating to the *Improving our Efficiency* change process are being proactively released on MPI's website soon. The final decision documents provide general feedback themes and the response and decision to the feedback, broken down by business unit.

- *Expected savings*

The savings from the FTE reduction component of MPI's overall operating efficiencies initiative is expected to be \$32.5 million in the 2024/25 financial year.

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



Kaye Ryan
Director, People & Capability