

Hon Andrew Hoggard

Minister for Biosecurity
Minister for Food Safety
Associate Minister of Agriculture (Animal Welfare, Skills)
Associate Minister for the Environment



OIA085

13 February 2025

Anna Wilson
fyi-request-29309-319f5456@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Anna,

Thank you for your email of 25 November 2024 requesting information relating to live animal exports. Your request has been considered under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA).

On 19 December 2024, I extended the time limit to respond to your request to 13 February 2025.

You requested the following:

- 1) *All correspondence between your office and MPI regarding live export of animals.*
- 2) *All correspondence between your office and the Prime Minister's office*

For avoidance of doubt, "correspondence" refers to aide memoires, briefings, memos, emails, text, Whats App messages, Signal messages, records of phone calls and so forth. "Your office" refers to Minister Hoggard, all political staff, and all private secretaries. Similarly, "the Prime Minister's office" refers to the Prime Minister, political staff and departmental staff.

The time period of this request is from the formation of the coalition Government to today, 25 November 2024.

Please see Appendix One for the following formal correspondence between my office and the Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI):

- MO24-0057 – *Livestock Exports by Sea Continuous Improvements*
- MO24-0056 – *New Zealand Livestock Exports by Sea – Identified welfare concerns*
- B24-0118 – *Process for reinstating the livestock export by sea trade*
- MO24-0165 – *Live Exports Ban Review Project – High Level Targeted Engagement Plan*
- B24-0327 – *Livestock Exports Work Programme Update*
- B24-0060 – *Animal Welfare: Livestock Export Review - Cabinet Paper for Ministerial Consultation*
- AM24-0538 – *Meeting about Livestock by Sea Exports*
- AM24-0579 – *Meeting with He Tātai Ranahua - Food and Fibre Youth Network to Discuss Youth Perspective on Livestock Exports*
- MO24-0443 – *BRIEF: Supporting Points for Ministerial Letter on Animal Exports*

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

- Section 6(a) – *the making available of that information would be likely to prejudice the security or defence of New Zealand or the international relations of the Government of New Zealand*
- Section 9(2)(a) – *to protect the privacy of natural persons.*
- Section 9(2)(b)(ii) – *to protect information where the making available of the information would be likely unreasonably to prejudice the commercial position of the person who is the subject of the information.*
- Section 9(2)(f)(iv) – *to maintain the constitutional conventions for the time being which protect the confidentiality of advice tendered by Ministers of the Crown and officials.*
- Section 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.*
- Section 9(2)(h) – *to maintain legal professional privilege.*
- Section 9(2)(j) – *to enable a Minister of the Crown or any department or organisation holding the information to carry out, without prejudice or disadvantage, negotiations.*

I am satisfied that, in the circumstances of this case, the withholding of the information under section 9 of the OIA is not outweighed by other considerations which render it desirable in the public interest to make the information available.

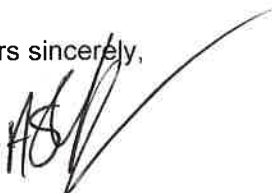
With reference to section 18(d) of the OIA, the following information is publicly available:

- LENZ Gold Standard: https://www.parliament.nz/resource/en-NZ/53SCPP_EVI_115891_PP2793/2165478e3fd68ec4ef89fbd23880504ff8448401
- Minister Hoggard 27 June 2024 press release: <https://www.beehive.govt.nz/release/government-progressing-commitment-reinstate-livestock-exports-sea>
- Minister Hoggard 20 November 2024 press release: <https://www.beehive.govt.nz/release/government-continues-work-reinstate-livestock-exports-sea>

I am currently assessing further information for release and will provide an update on a second tranche by 10 March 2025.

You are advised of your right to raise any concerns with the Office of the Ombudsman. You can contact the Ombudsman at info@ombudsman.parliament.nz.

Yours sincerely,



Hon Andrew Hoggard
Associate Minister of Agriculture