



OIA15-180

13 OCT 2015

Harrison  
FYI Website

Dear Harrison

### OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT REQUEST

I refer to your official information request of 30 September 2015 requesting copies of the operation manuals for Auckland Zoo, Wellington Zoo, Orana Wildlife Park, and Kamo Wildlife Sanctuary.

The Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) requires zoos approved as containment facilities under the Biosecurity Act 1993 to develop documented manuals that specify how the regulatory requirements relating to containment are met. The required documentation relates specifically to zoo animals that are new organisms under the Hazardous Substances and New Organisms (HSNO) Act 1996. MPI approves the manuals and requires the Operators of those facilities to provide them to biosecurity inspectors so that compliance against the containment regulatory requirements can be verified. The EPA standard is available on the MPI website at <http://www.biosecurity.govt.nz/border/transitional-facilities/animals/154-03-04.htm>.

The portions of the manuals relating to the containment of unwanted organisms include safety and security measures of the containment facilities. Withholding of this information is necessary to avoid prejudice to measures protecting the health or safety of members of the public, section 9(2)(c) of the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA). The public interest in knowing the suitability of the containment facilities is outweighed by potential security breaches if these procedures and measures were made public.

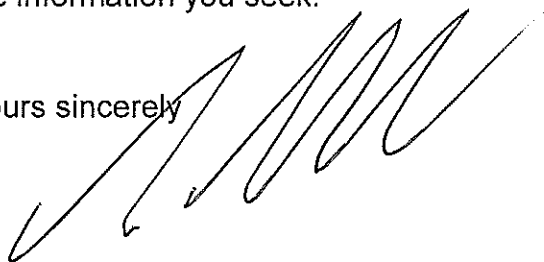
In general, however, the manuals do not just relate to containment, nor only to those zoo animals that are new organisms. Most zoos take a holistic approach to the operational manuals and use them to cover all aspects of operations, including containment, animal welfare, health and safety in employment, and animal husbandry, etc. A large part of the information provided is not directly related to compliance requirements related to containment but is, nevertheless, very useful towards understanding the whole zoo setup, management, and the inter-relationships of various operations.

These portions of the manual are provided under an obligation of confidence to MPI along with the mandatory containment information. It is in the public interest that it continues to receive the manuals in their entirety. Therefore, the remainder of the zoo manuals are withheld under 9(2)(ba)(i) of the OIA to 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.

MPI is satisfied that in the circumstances of this case, the withholding of information within these reports is not outweighed by other considerations which render it desirable in the public interest to make the information available. You have the right under section 28(3) of the OIA to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of our decision to refuse your request.

For your further information, you may wish to contact the relevant zoos directly to request the information you seek.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Chris Kebbell', written over a light blue horizontal line.

Chris Kebbell  
Director Verification Services