



OIA16-0443

20 OCT 2016

Graham Carter
C/- fyi.org.nz

Dear Graham Carter

OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT REQUEST

I refer to your official information request to the Minister for Primary Industries (30 July 2016) which was transferred to the Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) on 12 August 2016. You have requested:

“1. We request all reports and documentation on what MPI staff are authorized to view and receive the Observer reports.”

“2. We request all reports and documentation on how observers are paid.”

The response to questions one and two, is found by way of summary, pursuant to section 16(1)(e) of the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA) in the attached document ‘Observer Information’.

“3. We request all reports and documentation on agents and names of Agents.”

This request is not specified with due particularity.

“4. We request all reports and documentation on the location of Observer School.”

There is no ‘Observer School’ as such. Training of observers occurs at the Nelson Marlborough Institute of Technology (NMIT) campus in Nelson. The course is a three week intensive training course covering a wide variety of skills required by MPI Fisheries Observers. Upon completion of the course, observers undergo at least one training trip with an experienced observer.

“5. We request a copy of all Observer reports since 2000.”

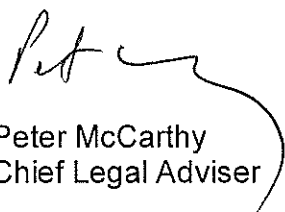
This part of your request is refused pursuant to section 18(f) of the OIA as the information requested cannot be made available without substantial collation or research.

In making the decision to refuse the request pursuant to section 18(f) of the OIA on the grounds that the information cannot be made available without substantial collation or research, we considered this request together with your other requests relating to fisheries management issues. We also considered whether fixing a charge would enable us to grant your request. Given the considerable amount of information requested, we have decided that charging would not be appropriate. The diversion of resources required to meet your requests would unreasonably interfere with the operations of MPI.

Secondly, pursuant to section 18B, we considered consulting you about revising the scope of the requests. Given the substantial amount of information requested, we do not see that entering into correspondence on this issue is likely to refocus the request down to a manageable scale.

You have the right pursuant to section 28(3) of the OIA to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of our decision to refuse part of your request.

Yours sincerely



Peter McCarthy
Chief Legal Adviser