

29 NOV 2016

**Ministry for Primary Industries**  
Manatū Ahu Matua



OIA16-0525

Graham Carter  
C/- fyi.org.nz

Dear Graham Carter

**OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT REQUEST**

I refer to your official information request of 2 September 2016 for all correspondence associated with any recommendations for a comprehensive review of the fisheries management system. The timeframe of this request is since the establishment of the Ministry of Fisheries.

The Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) ran a system data search on the information requested, and as a result, tens of thousands of documents were found. As your request covers a considerable amount of material, it is therefore refused in full pursuant to section 18(f) on the grounds that the information requested cannot be made available without substantial collation or research.

In making the decision to refuse the requests 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 your requests relating to fisheries management issues together. We also considered whether fixing a charge would enable us to grant your requests. 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 requests down to a manageable scale.

You may be interested to engage with MPI's *The Future of our Fisheries* programme, which will modernise and future-proof our fisheries management system. The programme is about getting the maximum value from our fisheries by getting better information faster and improving our decision-making processes. The proposed changes look to:

*Growing and Protecting New Zealand*

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- Maximise the cultural, recreational, commercial, and environmental value of our fisheries.
- Provide better fisheries information and compliance.
- Provide for more agile and flexible decision-making.

More information about the programme can be found on MPI's website at the following link, where you will also be able to view the consultation documents and make a submission if you wish: (<http://mpi.govt.nz/news-and-resources/consultations/future-of-our-fisheries>).

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.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Peter', with a long, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

Peter McCarthy  
Chief Legal Adviser