



1 DEC 2016

MIN16-1215

Gary Stephenson
c/o fyi.org.nz

Dear Gary Stephenson

Thank you for your correspondence of 25 October 2016 to Hon John Key, and of 31 October 2016 to Hon Nathan Guy regarding Rabbit Haemorrhagic Disease Virus (RHDV). Both the Prime Minister's office and Minister Guy's office have passed your correspondence on to the Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) for reply.

I am aware that, through your previous correspondence with Minister Guy and MPI officials, you have already been provided information on:

- Biosecurity risk assessment and the processes in place to deal with any accidental introduction of RHDV strains not present in New Zealand;
- The legislative approval processes on the control of wild rabbits including animal welfare regulations related to research, the approvals process for pest control tools and the availability of vaccines for pet owners; and
- The opportunities for you and other interested parties to engage in the above legislative approvals processes.

I am satisfied that we have set out the various regulatory and legislative processes that manage the concerns you have raised. At this time there is no further information that MPI can provide you.

For MPI, the next stage is for an application to be received and assessed against the Agricultural Compounds and Veterinary Medicines Act 1997. The applicant may provide further information to support their application. I understand the public submission process will likely occur early next year.

I invite you to submit your views on the application to use RHDV1-K5 for the control of wild rabbits into the above process, if you still have concerns. You can sign up for notifications of public submission processes on our website here:
<https://www.mpi.govt.nz/news-and-resources/subscribe-to-mpi/>

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Julie Collins'.

Julie Collins
Director
Biosecurity and Animal Welfare Policy

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