

Our Ref: OE 12-024



27 October 2011

Dear Fabrizio Scrollini

**By email: [fyi-request-49-9d66fad0@requests.fyi.org.nz](mailto:fyi-request-49-9d66fad0@requests.fyi.org.nz)**

Thank you for your email requesting information under the Official Information Act 1982, received by Land Information New Zealand (LINZ) on 12 October 2011.

In your email request you have asked for information that LINZ holds on land ownership in New Zealand, and in particular data about the following:

1. Percentage of land owned by foreigners
2. Percentage of land owned by corporation
3. Percentage of land dedicated to farming
4. Percentage of land occupied by farms above the average hectare

In relation to the above areas you have also asked for location information according to region, where this is possible.

LINZ does not hold any base data on the total area of land owned by overseas persons; or statistics on land that has been acquired by overseas persons and subsequently on-sold; or statistics on what land that has been acquired by overseas persons who subsequently cease to be overseas persons. Therefore I am refusing this request under section 18 (e) of the Official Information Act, 1982 as the information does not exist.

While LINZ does maintain a register of land in New Zealand, information that is held on the register is recorded as being held by private individuals or as other entities. It is possible that land registered to an entity and in some cases a company for example may also be co-owned by a private individual (either jointly or in shares). For this reason LINZ is unable to provide information on the percentage of land owned by corporations and I am refusing this part of your request under section 18 (f) on the basis that the information requested cannot be made available without substantial collation or research.

As I am not able to respond to your request as outlined above it will not be possible to provide the regional break down that you have requested.

Should you be dissatisfied with my decision to withhold information you have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman, whose address for contact purposes is:

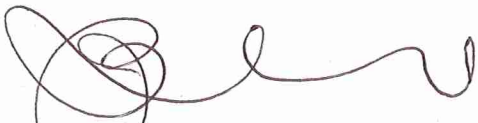
The Ombudsman  
Office of the Ombudsmen  
P O Box 10-152  
WELLINGTON

National Office  
Lambton House  
160 Lambton Quay  
PO Box 5501  
Wellington 6145  
New Zealand  
Tel 64-4-460 0110  
Fax 64-4-472 2244  
Email [info@linz.govt.nz](mailto:info@linz.govt.nz)  
[www.linz.govt.nz](http://www.linz.govt.nz)  
[www.newzealand.govt.nz](http://www.newzealand.govt.nz)

You also requested information about the 'Percentage of land dedicated to farming' and the 'Percentage of land occupied by farms above the average hectare', by region where available. The information you are seeking is not held by LINZ but I believe is more closely connected with the functions of Statistics New Zealand. For this reason I am now transferring this part of your request to Statistics New Zealand for a response.

You should expect to receive further correspondence on your request from Statistics New Zealand. Please note that the time limit for a response to your request will begin 20 working days from when Statistics New Zealand receives this transfer from LINZ.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Jan Pierce', with a large, stylized initial 'J'.

Jan Pierce  
General Manager: Customer Services  
Land Information New Zealand