



OIA16-0668

7 DEC 2016

Harrison  
c/- FYI

Dear Harrison

### OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT REQUEST

I refer to your official information request on 9 November 2016 relating to “copies of inspection reports for Kamo Wildlife Sanctuary.

As you may be aware, Kamo Wildlife Sanctuary (KWS) is currently not an approved facility and is closed to the public. Since the approvals of the previous facility and Operator expired, KWS has been under the direct supervision of MPI through a Compliance Order under the Biosecurity Act 1993. The purpose of this action is to ensure that the containment and welfare of the large cats is maintained and the risks to human health and safety are minimised while the Sanctuary undertakes the necessary physical and operational modifications to fully comply with the regulatory requirements and enable facility and operator applications to be lodged.

In exercising the supervisory function, MPI maintains regular contact with KWS owners and staff, which includes regular site inspections, meetings to discuss progress with the modifications and oversight of procedures and operations. While this is primarily aimed at ensuring containment and animal welfare is maintained, MPI is also liaising with WorkSafe New Zealand on ensuring health and safety requirements are met. The primary MPI inspector is a veterinarian and I can confirm that the animals are being appropriately cared for by qualified and competent staff.

Because KWS is not approved as a containment facility and is under MPI supervision, official inspection reports that would normally be issued to the approved Operator are not generated. In addition, any veterinarian reports would be generated at the behest of KWS itself and not part of meeting containment requirements.

Noting the above context of the situation, while there are notes and correspondence between MPI and KWS that relate to your request, much of this is, or contains, information that would necessitate being withheld under sections 9(2)(b)(ii), 9(2)(ba) and 9(2)(c) of the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA) where making available of the information would be likely unreasonably to prejudice the commercial position of KWS, protect information which is subject to an obligation of confidence or prejudice the measures protecting the health or safety of members of the public, respectively.

In order to satisfy your request, however, and to meet the public interest for release of this information, MPI has decided to release a timeline summary of MPI's actions in relation to KWS, pursuant to section 16(1)(e) of the OIA. This summary will be provided to you once it has been processed.

You have the right under section 28(3) of the OIA to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of our decision.

Yours sincerely



Chris Kebbell  
Director, Verification Services