

13 FEB 2017

Ministry for Primary Industries  
Manatū Ahu Matua



OIA17-0038

Charlotte Panton  
Care of FYI website

Dear Charlotte Panton

**OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT REQUEST**

I refer to your official information request on 29 January 2017 relating to the following:

- *All information, reports and conclusions relating to the investigation into Hawke's Bay Seafoods' alleged misreporting of their commercial fishing catch between 2012–2014.*
- *An up-to-date progress report on, or conclusion of, this investigation.*

This matter is currently before the Courts and it will take some time for the judicial process to be completed. Accordingly, the Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) has decided to withhold the information requested under section 6(c) of the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA) so as to not prejudice the maintenance of the law, including the prevention, investigation, and detection of offences, and the right to a fair trial.

MPI will be able to assess and provide material subject to the provisions of the OIA as soon as the Court process is concluded. MPI therefore invites you to make a further request for this information at that time.

MPI is satisfied that in the circumstances of this case, the withholding of the information is not outweighed by other considerations which render it desirable in the public interest to make the information available. 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 'S. Rowe'.

Stephanie Rowe  
Director Compliance Services