



OIA17-0141

6 APR 2017

Kyle Sutherland
Care of FYI website

Dear Kyle Sutherland

OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT REQUEST

I refer to your official information request on 13 March 2017 relating to glyphosate use and testing. Your questions are quoted and responded to below.

The following information is released to you under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA):

1. *Does the Ministry hold information on the number of farms around New Zealand which use the crop desiccation practice prior to harvest? If able to split between crop types and regions please do.*

The Ministry for Primary industries (MPI) does not collect information on the use of glyphosate for crop desiccation. Therefore, this request is refused under section 18(g) of the OIA as the information requested is not held by any department or Minister of the Crown.

2. *What is the process MPI use to test for glyphosate levels in crops that have been sprayed before harvest?*
3. *What are the MPI testing guidelines for allowed levels of glyphosate in products to be sold for human consumption in [New Zealand]?*

All products containing pesticides (including glyphosate) labelled for use on food crops must be registered under the Agricultural Compounds and Veterinary Medicines Act 1997. This Act is administered by MPI as the regulator for food safety.

The registration processes includes an assessment between residues in food crops from use of the product and the Maximum Residue Limit (MRL) for the compound. MRLs are set via a Notice under the Food Act to set the criteria for the maximum amount of contaminants or residues that may be present in food. The MRL is used to ensure good agricultural practice (GAP) while ensuring food safety. Produce can only be sold for human consumption if the chemical residue complies with the MRL set in the Notice.

MPI conducts a Food Residues Surveillance Programme (FRSP) to monitor general compliance of pesticides (and other chemicals) with the MRLs set under the Notice. The aim of this programme is to confirm GAP is being followed by growers. More information on the FRSP can be found at <http://www.foodsafety.govt.nz/policy-law/food-monitoring-programmes/food-act-1981/frsp/>.

4. *How many of these tests were performed in the last year?*

In 2016, under the FRSP, MPI tested for glyphosate residues in 60 samples each of wheat and peas. The interim results for the wheat samples can be found at the MPI website at: <https://www.mpi.govt.nz/food-safety/whats-in-our-food/chemicals-and-food/agricultural-compounds-and-residues/glyphosate/>. The results for the pea samples will be in the FRSP report due to be published in 2017.

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



Allan Kinsella
Director Systems Audit, Assurance and Monitoring