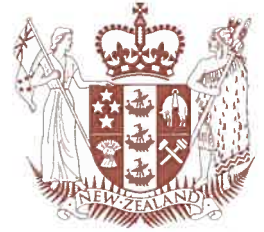


Hon Stuart Nash



MP for Napier

Minister of Police

Minister of Fisheries

Minister of Revenue

Minister for Small Business

MIN18-0549

24 MAY 2018

Jason McIntosh

fyi-request-7713-cbe5b9f9@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Jason

Thank you for your correspondence of 25 April regarding a query regarding the monitoring of the levels of radiation in fish

MPI has carried out a number of studies to establish whether or not there are radionuclides present at levels of concern in seafood on the New Zealand market. These are published on our website and in peer-reviewed scientific journals.

- MPI (2013) Radionuclide Testing in Imported Foods Survey: Imported Foods Monitoring Programme
<http://www.mpi.govt.nz/dmsdocument/4098-radionuclide-testing-in-imported-foods-survey>
- Pearson, A *et al* (2016) Natural and anthropogenic radionuclide activity concentrations in the New Zealand diet.
<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0265931X15300060>
- Pearson, A *et al* (2016) Activity concentrations of ¹³⁷Caesium and ²¹⁰Polonium in seafood from fishing regions of New Zealand and the dose assessment for seafood consumers <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0265931X15300680>

Radionuclides were detected in fish, but at levels well within international guidelines and, therefore, not a human health risk, even for frequent consumers of seafood.

Consequently, my officials advise that regular monitoring of New Zealand fish for radionuclides is not required. However, MPI has access to the results of food monitoring programmes in Japan, and will review the need for similar in New Zealand should the Japanese results suggest such.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Stuart Nash'.

Hon Stuart Nash
Minister of Fisheries