

OIA18-0381

11 JUN 2018

Graham Carter

fyi-request-7958-f2f5f8cf@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Graham Carter

OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT REQUEST

I refer to your official information request on 30 May 2018 in which you wrote:

I have just found out through means I will not divulge that a Mr Van Leimann from Canterbury purchased semen from a Dutch Company, which is where the M Bovis strain came to be introduced to NZ.

He owns several farms around the Waimate region where he has sharemilkers who own the affected. We gear that over 13 million has been paid out to him. Van Leimann is also on selling to his relatives.

If the Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) can access this information as we have they should be able to ascertain the name of the Dutch Company who he purchased the semen off by looking into his electronic messages through the appropriate agencies.

MPI do not test semen when bought into NZ through its bio-security or border control. There has also been over 3000 dodgy or unrecorded stock movements.

Can you please advise if you are aware of this and we ask for any communications involving Mr Van Leimann.

After initial discussions made about your request, it was not clear the individual named in your request was known to MPI or Biosecurity New Zealand. Under section 18(b) of the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA), if a refusal is likely given the information requested does not exist, the agency has a duty to consider consulting with the requestor. As such, on 31 May and 5 June 2018, MPI consulted with you asking you to confirm the spelling of the individual's name ("Van Leimann"). As of today's date, we have not received any reply from you. As per our obligations under the OIA to communicate a decision to the requestor as soon as practicable, we are refusing your request under section 18(e) of the OIA, as the information requested does not exist.

Biosecurity New Zealand

Readiness and Response Services – M.Bovis

Pastoral House, 25 The Terrace

Wellington 6011, New Zealand

PO Box 2526

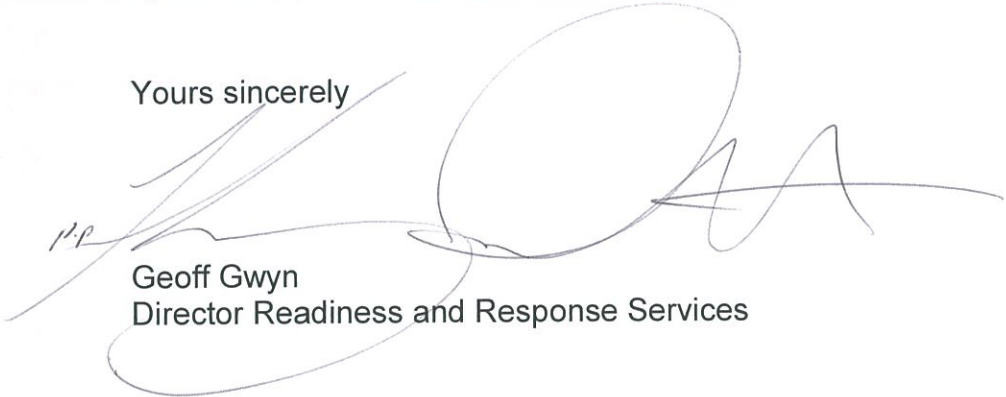
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You have the right under section 28(3) of the OIA to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of our decision to refuse your request.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'G. Gwyn', written over a large, faint circular stamp or watermark.

Geoff Gwyn
Director Readiness and Response Services