

OIA18-0517

10 AUG 2018

T Monk

fyi-request-8329-7006cfd7@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear T Monk

OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT REQUEST

Thank you for your correspondence of 23 July regarding a query about atmospheric radiation monitoring and radiation monitoring of fish in New Zealand.

The Ministry for Primary Industries (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, 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.

Your request for radiation monitoring 'results from the past 20 years' under the Section 18(e) of the OIA cannot be met because there is no such programme, and therefore the information does not exist.

**New Zealand Food Safety
Science and Risk Assessment**

Pastoral House, 25 The Terrace
Wellington 6011, New Zealand
PO Box 2526

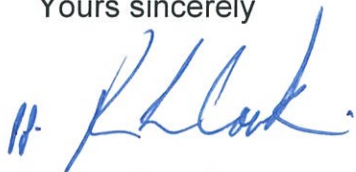
Wellington 6140, New Zealand

Telephone: 0800 00 83 33, Facsimile: +64-4-894 0300

www.mpi.govt.nz

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

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "S. Hathaway".

Steve Hathaway
Director Science & Risk Assessment