

02 NOV 2018



OIA18-0652

Steve Glassey
fyi-request-8689-42dcabbb@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Steve Glassey

OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT REQUEST

I refer to your official information request on 16 September 2018 relating to commercial pig farms. You have specifically requested:

Copies of advice given or sought to/from between the Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) and NZ Pork, in respect to emergency management (i.e. advice/discussion on how commercial pig farms and prepare for natural disasters such as floods or earthquakes); and copies of documents originated by MPI that has set any expectations on such farmers in regards ensuring the welfare of their animals during and following an emergency. This request can be limited to the last two years as of the date of this request.

MPI conducted a database email search for all correspondence between MPI and New Zealand Pork (using @mpi and @pork.co.nz as mailbox search terms) sent between 16 September 2016 and 16 September 2018. This search was coupled with the keyword terms "emergency management", "natural disaster", "earthquake", and "tsunami".

Over 2400 email chains were returned as part of the search. As such, this is too large an amount of information for MPI to review and read through to determine whether any individual emails would constitute as being within the scope of your request. Accordingly, the correspondence part of your request is refused under section 18(f) of the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA): *that the information requested cannot be made available without substantial collation and research*. Some of this information will represent correspondence with New Zealand Pork, as a support agency for the animal welfare sub-function in a response.

A member of the Animal Health and Welfare team however, did recall a recent email that was sent to New Zealand Pork, related to animal welfare and emergency management, and pulled that information from their sent email folder. This email is being provided to you under the OIA. Some information has been withheld under section 9(2)(a) *to protect the privacy of natural persons*.

MPI staff have not created any documents on animal welfare in emergency management in relation to commercial pig farms and sent them to New Zealand Pork.

The general advice that MPI has given to pig farmers (including commercial farmers) is that the code of welfare for pigs includes a requirement for planning for unforeseen situations. The code of welfare for pigs can be found on the MPI website at the following link:
<https://www.mpi.govt.nz/protection-and-response/animal-welfare/codes-of-welfare/>.

Regulation and Assurance

Animal Health and Welfare

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I am also providing the below link to the MPI website which contains information on MPI's role in emergencies under the National Civil Defence emergency management plan 2015: www.mpi.govt.nz/protection-and-response/animal-welfare/animals-in-emergencies/. It also contains MPI's work programme for animal welfare in emergencies, showing our intention to continue to work with 'second tier' support agencies, which includes New Zealand Pork.

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 withhold information and refuse parts of your request.

Yours sincerely



Chris Rodwell
Director Animal Health and Welfare

From: § 9(2)(a) @pork.co.nz>
Sent: Thursday, 26 April 2018 12:04 p.m.
To: § 9(2)(a) @mpi.govt.nz
Cc: § 9(2)(a) @pork.co.nz>; § 9(2)(a) @mpi.govt.nz
Subject: Adverse events planning in respect of AW

Hi there § 9(2)(a)

It was good to re-establish contact earlier this week thank you, in your MPI role in planning for adverse events.

To formally establish NZPork's connection: because we are a small industry with slightly over 100 commercial pig farms, NZPork's key contacts are § 9(2)(a) (email above and cellph § 9(2)(a)) and § 9(2)(a) for the South Island and North Island respectively. In time we may provide a direct farmer contact in some key areas. In addition we may contact a farmer directly to be involved in regional forward planning activities: for example, just recently I replied to § 9(2)(a) re planning in Northland area with the contact of our single commercial farm there.

As § 9(2)(a) pointed out more work is to follow on MPI's planning, particularly given that Civil Defence's (the lead agency) will prioritise dense population areas. However it is very helpful for the commercial pork industry that MPI understands the relative priority needs for AW in the commercial pig industry for transport of feed onto farm and movement to slaughter; plus the relative priority need of functioning pig slaughter capability. We will maintain contact as we address priority gaps in our preparedness.

We have also formally re-established contact with Federated Farmers of whom NZPork is an affiliated member, as well as some of our farmers being Feds' members in their own right.

Regards

§ 9(2)(a)



s 9(2)(a) @pork.co.nz

www.pigcare.co.nz www.pork.co.nz www.nzpork.co.nz

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FOR GREAT RECIPE IDEAS THAT MAKE ANY OCCASION SPECIAL VISIT WWW.PORK.CO.NZ

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