



Ross Francis

fji-request-9275-0ee39ff7@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Mr Francis

Official information request

I refer to your official information request dated 19 December 2018 for:

“When was the Minister (or his private secretary) informed that Sir Thomas had been approached to take part in an inquiry into genetic modification?”

When Sir Thomas’ inquiry was established, appointees were required to declare any actual or possible conflicts of interest. Did Sir Thomas declare any actual or possible conflicts of interest? Did the Minister (or his private secretary) ask Sir Thomas if he had any actual or possible conflicts of interest to declare?

Did the Minister consider anyone other than Sir Thomas to chair the inquiry? If so, who?”

My response to you is delayed due to a handling error in my Office for which I apologise.

The OIA enables people to request official information from Ministers. However, the OIA/LGOIMA only applies to information that is already held by me. There is no obligation for me or my Office to create information in order to respond to a request.

The information you are seeking in this case is not held by me but would need to be created in order to respond to your request.

I am therefore refusing your request under section 18(g) of the OIA, because I do not hold any official information.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this decision. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or freephone 0800 802 602.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'A Little', written over the typed name.

Hon Andrew Little
Minister of Justice