



Prime Minister

Minister for Arts, Culture & Heritage

Minister for Child Poverty Reduction

Minister for National Security & Intelligence

- 1 APR 2019

T Benseman

fyi-request-9755-d12ec419@requests.fyi.org.nz

fyi-request-9756-7493393c@requests.fyi.org.nz

Ref: PMO 031-2019 and CSA OIA 19-001

Dear T Benseman

Official Information Act request relating to advice to the Prime Minister on 1080 poison and traditional trapping methods

Thank you for your Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) requests addressed to the Prime Minister and to her Chief Science Advisor, both received on 4 March 2019. As information held by the Prime Minister's Chief Science Advisor is deemed to be information held by the Prime Minister pursuant to section 2(2)(d) of the Act, this is a response to both of your requests. You requested of the Prime Minister:

"Have you been advised that 1080 takes 120 hours to kill pigs during which time they vomit 13.6 times on average before death, as per the NZ Government's online document "How humane are our pest control tools."

and, of the Prime Minister's Chief Science Advisor:

"...all the details fed to Jacinda Ardern regarding the humaneness of 1080 poison. In particular please provide transcripts of the discussion regarding the 120 hours that it takes to kill pigs during which time they vomit 13.6 times on average before death, as per the NZ Government's online document "How humane are our pest control tools." And if you need a copy of it let us know as we have many.

Also please provide the transcripts of the discussion around how the sustainable trapping methods that were traditionally used leads to a much reduced time frame before death for possums - maximum legal trap occupancy time of 24 hours or checking as soon as daylight arrives versus 126.6 hours dying in agony from 1080. And also tell us what wording was used to describe how poisoned possums, pigs, deer and native birds are toxic and therefore wasted into the waterways rather than used for furthering employment such as when trapping and hunting methods are used."

The Prime Minister has not received a briefing specifically on this topic. Responsibility for 1080 management or use sits with the Ministers of Conservation, Primary Industries, Environment, and Agriculture. Any briefings in respect of its humaneness would sit with those Ministers or their agencies.

The subject of 1080 arose in one verbal discussion between the Prime Minister and her Chief Science Advisor when they were prioritising the work programme for the Chief Science Advisor, but work on 1080 has not been prioritised. The Prime Minister's Chief Science Advisor's work plan is available online at: www.pmcsa.ac.nz.

You have the right to ask the Ombudsman to investigate and review my decision under section 28(3) of the Act.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "M. Munro".

Mike Munro
Chief of Staff