



29/08/2023

OIA23-0487

Claire Bleakley  
claire@gefree.org.nz

Dear Claire Bleakley

Thank you for your email of 10 August 2023 to the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) requesting information relating to monitoring of GE laboratory experiments. Parts of your request were transferred to the Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) on 16 August 2023. Your request has been considered under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA).

The following parts of your request were transferred to MPI:

- 1. Who is responsible to ensure compliance with controls regarding MPI monitoring?*
- 5. Is there an audit of all the inspections that the EPA requires to be carried out?*

The Verification Services Biosecurity Team within MPI is responsible for verifying compliance with the controls listed in the Hazardous Substances and Novel Organisms (HSNO) approvals issued by the EPA.

The Verification Services Biosecurity Team conducts regular audits of the facilities that hold HSNO approval. Compliance with the controls listed in the HSNO approvals issued by the EPA is verified during the regular audits. The frequency of these audits depends on which standards the facilities are approved to operate under. The identification of non-compliances may increase the verification frequency.

I understand you also requested copies of the audit and inspection reports and final reports on expired approvals since 2016, which was requested in Question 6 of your request to EPA. As this part of the request is more closely linked with the functions of MPI, we can advise that this cannot be made available without substantial collation or research. This question is therefore refused under section 18(f) of the OIA. However, if there is something in particular you are seeking, I encourage you to refine your request at [Official.InformationAct@mpi.govt.nz](mailto:Official.InformationAct@mpi.govt.nz).

Should you have any concerns with this response, I would encourage you to raise these with MPI at [Official.InformationAct@mpi.govt.nz](mailto:Official.InformationAct@mpi.govt.nz). Alternatively, you are advised of your right to also raise any concerns with the Office of the Ombudsman. Contact details are: Office of the Ombudsman, PO Box 10152, Wellington 6143 or at [info@ombudsman.parliament.nz](mailto:info@ombudsman.parliament.nz).

Yours sincerely

Alan Cook  
**Director, Verification Services**

