



5 May 2011

Ms Claire Bleakley  
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Dear Ms Bleakley

Thank you for your e-mail to Roger Bourne of 13 April 2011.

I can confirm that Plant & Food Research currently holds approvals from ERMA and the National Animal Ethics Committee that allow animal feeding studies to determine potential health benefits from genetically modified apples.

The information that you have requested relates to research results that have been prepared under a contract with two of our research collaboration partners. Providing copies of those results to you would amount to a breach of the confidentiality obligations that we owe towards those research collaboration partners, and would be likely to prejudice our ability to continue to exchange confidential information with those research collaboration partners in the future. We believe that it is in the public interest for us to continue to be able to exchange confidential information with research collaborators to enable us to carry out research for the benefit of New Zealand, and we are hence unable to release those reports to you.

Furthermore, the information that you have requested relates to the business and research activities of our research collaboration partners, and we believe that the release of that information would be likely to unreasonably prejudice the commercial position of those research collaboration partners. We are unaware of any outweighing consideration that might render it desirable, in the public interest, for us to release that information to you.

In addition, the information that you have requested also relates to the commercial activities of Plant & Food Research, and we believe that the release of that information would be likely to unreasonably prejudice or disadvantage our ability to carry out Plant & Food Research's commercial activities. We are unaware of any outweighing consideration that might render it desirable, in the public interest, for us to release that information to you.

We are intending to submit the results of this research for publication in a peer reviewed scientific journal after appropriate measures have been taken to meet the contractual and other obligations outlined above. We do not yet have a precise date for this proposed publication, but we anticipate it would not be sooner than later this calendar year. If you would like to contact us closer to that time we will be able to update you on the publication process and refer you to any paper that may be published.

Finally, I note that you have the right to refer our assessment of your request to the Office of the Ombudsmen for review ([complaint@ombudsmen.parliament.nz](mailto:complaint@ombudsmen.parliament.nz)).

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Landon-Lane".

Peter Landon-Lane  
Chief Executive Officer