

09 August 2023

GE Free NZ
Attn: Claire Bleakley
via email: Claire@gefrees.org.nz

Dear Claire

Official Information Act request

Further to your OIA request dated 18 July 2023, please find our responses below with your original request in bold and our explanation in italics.

Your request: **GE Free New Zealand has received the Scion 2023 Annual report for ERMA200479 and would like to have further clarification on the document regarding**

1. How many GM trees are planted in the Scion field test site?

Currently there are 141 GM trees in the field trial site.

- *19 of these are planted in the ground.*
- *122 trees are planted in pots and held in the field trial.*

a) What are their different traits?

The traits currently being tested in the field trial are reproduction and biomass utilisation.

b) How many of each trait?

The 19 trees planted in the ground are part of an experiment investigating biomass utilisation.

The 122 trees planted in pots are part of a trial investigating reproduction.

2. How many Wild Type (WT) are planted in the Scion field test site?

Currently there are 40 wild type trees in the field trial site.

a) Are the WT trees null segregants?

None of the wild types are null segregants

b) Are the WT conventional trees?

All the wild type trees in the trial have been produced through tissue culture procedures but have not undergone any form of genetic modification.

3. How many GM trees are planted in the containment glasshouse?

Currently 497 GM trees are planted in the containment glasshouse.

a) How many of each trait?

142 are part of experiments investigating reproduction

20 are part of experiments addressing biomass acquisition

335 are part of experiment addressing biomass utilisation

b) What are their different traits?

The traits currently being tested in the containment glasshouse are reproduction, biomass acquisition and biomass utilisation.

4. Have you completed any viability testing on the reproductive structures?

The controls of approval GMF100001 require that an inspection and monitoring system is in place to identify and then destroy immature reproductive structure. No transgenic tree in the field trial has developed reproductive structures to the stage where they contain viable heritable material.

No viability testing has been conducted on reproductive structures that have developed on trees grown in the containment glasshouse.

a) If so please can we have the data?

Not applicable as per the above answer.

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

If you wish to discuss this decision with us, please feel free to contact Angela Vircavs (angela.vircavs@scionresearch.com).

Yours sincerely



Dr Julian Elder
CEO