



15 April 2025

Ref: DOIA-REQ-0010280-Claire Bleakley

Claire Bleakley
Organisation: GE-Free New Zealand
Email: claire@gefree.org.nz

Tēnā koe Claire

Thank you for your email of 14 February 2025 to the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE) requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), the following information:

We are aware that you are working on the Gene Technology Bill for the Government. We have been reading all your information relating to the Gene Technology Bill on the MBIE website. Please consider this request under the Official Information Act.

Please may we have the documents relating to -

- 1. The consideration of liability issues that are in place relating to farmers who grow genetically engineered (GE) plants and cause contamination?*
- 2. How will the liability issues relating to local council roadsides, verges and green spaces being GE contaminated then causing GE contamination to farms?*
- 3. Will GE farmers be required to have insurance in the event of genetic contamination of non-GE farms? Or*
 - a. Will non-GE, organic farmers be required to have insurance in the event of genetic contamination of non-GE farms? Or*
- 4. Will the exempt GE seeds be available for the home gardener to grow?*
 - a. If so, what will be the liability issues related to genetic escape to others?*
- 5. All documents on segregation rules around the depot facilities for either non-GM or GM crops.*
 - a. Will they be in separate depots on different sites?*
- 6. Documents on the consideration of submitters ability to challenge the regulator decisions?*
- 7. What funding will be allocated to MPI to have the latest up-to-date detection tools for any unauthorized GE plants or animals?*
- 8. All correspondence relating to the removal of ethical and precautionary principles and why they were removed?*
- 9. All documents relating to the Treaty of Waitangi and its continuance in the Bill*
- 10. All surveys on farmer and manufacturers attitudes on whether to exempt organisms that have been bred through NBTs?*
- 11. What were the biotech products that generated \$2.7 million in revenue in 2020?*
- 12. What evidence-based documents that have been considered as to the understanding of the better management of the risks?*

<https://www.gefree.org.nz/> 2

- 13. All the evidence-based documents that were provided to show the GE white clover reduced methane emissions and improved animal health.*
- 14. The documents and surveys relating to consultation with Māori on native taonga?*
- 15. Documents on the funding allocation for the most current diagnostic “omics” tests for monitoring?*
- 16. All legislative documents to show England and EU have passed into law and are growing exempted NBTs and GE crops without regulation?*
- 17. All documents regarding consultation with conventional, organic and regenerative, Te Waka kai ora farmers and consumers on the NBT and GE exemptions?*
- 18. All economic and survey data on the export trade response to the removal of the GE Free status of Aotearoa’s export products?*
- 19. All economic survey data on international export markets purchasing of Aotearoa’s GE products?*
- 20. Which Countries would be buying our products?*
- 21. Which Corporations would be investing in the NBTs or GE adoption in Aotearoa?*

We are anticipating these are the questions that will arise in the Gene Technology Bill and would like to have them answered so as to be fully prepared for the consultation and submission period?

We have addressed all but two points in this request in our response to you of 14 March 2025. The outstanding points to be addressed are:

- 1. The consideration of liability issues that are in place relating to farmers who grow genetically engineered (GE) plants and cause contamination?*
- 6. Documents on the consideration of submitters ability to challenge the regulator decisions?*

There is a significant amount of material in scope of these parts of your request. Ordinarily, we would have requested to rescope or clarify your request, but the volume of this material is such that even a reduced scope would likely entail significant collation and place a substantial administrative burden on MBIE. However, currently all the documents that are potentially in scope of your request are under active consideration by the Health Committee in its consideration of the Bill. As such, we must withhold all documents under section 9(2)(f)(iv) for the time being.

We would like to invite you to make a further request at a later stage once the Bill is no longer before the Committee, and we are happy to work with you to refine your request to a manageable scope so that we can provide you with the information that you require.

If you wish to discuss any aspect of your request or this response, or if you require any further assistance, please contact OIA@mbie.govt.nz.

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.

Nāku noa, nā

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'de Jong', enclosed within a large, loopy oval stroke.

Tony de Jong

Manager Biotechnology Policy ? Regulation

Technology and Innovation