

Official Information Act Request

Requester's details

Date: 20 October 2025

Name: Claire Bleakley

Organisation: President, GE Free New Zealand

Email: claire@gefree.org.nz

Reference number: ENQ-49872-B8T4T4

Tēnā koe Claire

I refer to your request received on 23 September 2025:

"Please may I have:

1. The GE HME ryegrass and the 67A approval for the nutrition trial on the lambs. This includes the disposal of the effluent.
 - a. can you advise if the EPA is not required to approve these trials who is?
2. The annual reports for GMF98005/GMC99001 and the monitoring and report requirements as specified in condition 6.3.
3. The final report of the field trial GMF98004 and the monitoring and report requirements as specified in condition 19?
4. As the years for the reports ended in June, we presume that the EPA would have already received them, so please can you refer me to the place they are posted?"

The information you have requested follows.

1. We requested and obtained a copy of AgResearch's Official Information Act 1982 (OIA) response to GE Free New Zealand dated 6 May 2025 to assist with answering this question. As AgResearch stated in its response to question 4, the genetically modified ryegrass was not viable. Therefore, no Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) approval nor amendment under section 67A of the Hazardous Substances and New Organisms Act 1996 (the Act) was required for the trial, as only living genetically modified organisms are regulated under the Act.
 - a. The EPA is unaware of, nor does it hold any information on, any other approval requirements for the feeding trials undertaken by AgResearch. This part of your request is refused under section 18(g) of the OIA because the information is not held.

2. The field trial for GMF98005 did not take place, therefore there are no monitoring and report requirement documents that exist. The following documents below contain further information about this and are attached as **Appendix 1**.

Date	Document type	Decision to release
24 March 2000	Letter advising trial had not yet started.	Release with some information withheld under section 9(2)(a).
August 2001	Status of field trials approved by ERMA as of August 2001	Release in full
16 October 2001	Status of approved GMO field trials June 2000 – note statement GMF98005 & GMF98006 not proceeding.	Release in full
8 July 2002	Letter/OIA reply to Claire Bleakley stating that Pioneer NZ was ceasing operations and not proceeding with the field test.	Release in full.

3. The final report for GMF98004 is available here on the EPA website:

<https://www.epa.govt.nz/assets/FileAPI/hsno-ar/GMF98004/0cf3a080ad/GMF98004.doc>

The following documents below contain further information regarding compliance as specified in condition 19 and are attached as **Appendix 2**.

Date	Document type	Decision to release
14 January 1999	Email regarding population counts	Release with some information withheld under section 9(2)(a).
14 January 1999	Excel spreadsheet regarding population counts	Release in full
26 January 1999	Email regarding bolter count	Release with some information withheld under section 9(2)(a).

4. The two annual reports for the year ending June 2025, are available here on the EPA website:

<https://www.epa.govt.nz/assets/FileAPI/hsno-ar/ERMA200479/2025-Scion-Pine-Trees-Annual-Report.pdf>

[ERMA200223-2025-AgResearch-cattle-sheep-and-goats-annual-report-v3.pdf](https://www.epa.govt.nz/assets/FileAPI/hsno-ar/ERMA200223/2025-AgResearch-cattle-sheep-and-goats-annual-report-v3.pdf)

Some of the information you have requested has been withheld redacted under section 9(2)(a) of the OIA to protect the privacy of natural persons.

We consider there is good reason to withhold this information that outweighs the public interest in making it available.

I hope this information is helpful. You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this decision under section 28(3) of the OIA. You can contact the Ombudsman on 0800 802 602, or by email at info@ombudsman.parliament.nz

If you have any further queries, please do not hesitate to contact us via ministerials@epa.govt.nz

We may publish your request and our response on our website, www.epa.govt.nz. We make OIA responses available so others can read more about the work we do and the questions we are asked. Any information that might identify you will be removed to protect your privacy.

Nāku noa nā

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Chris Hill".

Dr Christopher Hill

General Manager, Hazardous Substances and New Organisms