

19 August 2022

GE Free New Zealand

PO Box 13402

Wellington

For: Claire Bleakley – President

By email: [claire@gefrees.org.nz](mailto:claire@gefrees.org.nz)

(Copy to Jon Muller – Secretary – [secretary@gefrees.org.nz](mailto:secretary@gefrees.org.nz))

Dear Claire,

### **Official Information Act Request – GE Ryegrass**

I refer to our previous exchanges around your request for “the report documents provided to the funders concerning the US field trials during 2019 to 2021” pertaining to AgResearch’s genetically modified ryegrass.

As advised, we have determined to release two groups of documents which are within the scope of your request. These documents are attached:

1. AgResearch’s annual reports to MBIE related to the work with the genetically modified ryegrass funded by MBIE’s Contestable Research Fund (for the years ending 30 June in 2020 and 2021) (2 documents, being the C10X1603 documents); and
2. A collection of documents provided to the industry funders of the field trials.

We have completed redactions and deletions as advised in order to withhold a select amount of information, on the following grounds:

- A. Information withheld to protect the privacy of individual persons (section 9(2)(a) of the Act);
- B. Information withheld where disclosure would be likely unreasonably to prejudice the commercial position of the parties who are the subject of the information (section 9(2)(b)(ii) of the Act); and

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10 Bisley Road, Hamilton 3214  
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Grasslands Research Centre, Hopkirk  
Research Institute, Te Ohu Rangahau Kai  
Tennent Drive, Palmerston North 4410  
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T +64 6 356 8019

Invermay Agricultural Centre  
176 Puddle Alley, Mosgiel 9092  
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T +64 3 489 3809

- C. Information which pertains to a potential intellectual property position for AgResearch, withheld as it is necessary to do so to enable AgResearch to carry out, without prejudice or disadvantage, commercial activities (section 9(2)(i) of the Act).

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of our decision on your request. Information about how to make a complaint is available at [www.ombudsman.parliament.nz](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz) or freephone 0800 802 602.

If you wish to discuss our decision with us, please feel free to contact me at 03 321 8800.

Yours faithfully,



**Nick Barraclough**

Team Leader - Legal