



OIA23-0347

31 July 2023

Claire Bleakely
claire@gefree.org.nz

Dear Claire

Thank you for your email of 19 June 2023 requesting information relating to New Zealand's exports and imports of LMO's in the years 2018 - 2023. Your request has been considered under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA).

As you are aware, the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety to the Convention on Biological Diversity is an international agreement which aims to ensure the safe handling, transport, and use of LMOs, specifically focusing on movements between nations.

In New Zealand, the Biosecurity Act 1993 and the Hazardous Substances and New Organisms (HSNO) Act 1996 are the primary Acts relating to the use and management LMOs. MPI enforces the Biosecurity Act and the HSNO Act with respect to new organisms (which include LMOs). The Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) considers applications to introduce new organisms to New Zealand under the HSNO Act and sets requirements around how they should be managed and contained.

You requested:

We note that New Zealand was a signatory of the Cartagena Protocol, please could provide the information of these New Zealand's exports and imports of LMO's in the years 2018 - 2023 through the Biological Clearing House

1. *How many consignments of LMO micro-organisms have been*
 1. *Imported?*
 2. *Exported?*
 3. *What species and varieties?*
 4. *The BHC numbers and dates?*

2. *How many consignments of LMO seeds have been*
 1. *Imported?*
 2. *Exported?*
 3. *What species and varieties?*
 4. *The BHC numbers and dates?*

3. *How many consignments of LMO plants have been*
 1. *Imported?*
 2. *Exported?*
 3. *What species and varieties?*
 4. *The BHC numbers and dates?*
 5. *All information the import, export, of ERMA200825*

4. How many consignments of LMO animal, embryo's or viable semen/ova have been

1. Imported?
2. Exported?
3. What species and constructs?
4. The BHC numbers and dates

On 17 July the Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) extended the time limit to respond to your request to 22 August 2023.

The requested information is released to you as Appendix One. Please note, permits that were not used (no consignment lines were associated with them) are not included. Further, export data that is missing information is an administration issue, we can confirm HSNO approval has been given prior to export.

Import data for animal LMO's in Appendix One does not include GMO animal cell lines imported under the import health standard for cell cultures. Provision of this information has been declined pursuant to section 18(f) of the OIA because the information requested cannot be made available without substantial collation.

No plant LMO's have been imported therefore we are further declining this part of your request pursuant to section 18(e) - *that the document alleged to contain the information requested does not exist*. There has also been no imports or exports relating to ERMA200825 therefore this part of your request is also declined pursuant to section 18(e) of the OIA.

Should you have any concerns with this response, I would encourage you to raise these with the Ministry for Primary Industries at Official.InformationAct@mpi.govt.nz. Alternatively, you are advised of your right to also raise any concerns with the Office of the Ombudsman. Contact details are: Office of the Ombudsman, PO Box 10152, Wellington 6143 or at info@ombudsman.parliament.nz.

Yours sincerely



Alan Cook
Director, Verification Services