

OIA23-0078

12 April 2023

Claire Bleakley
claire@gefree.org.nz

Dear Claire Bleakley

Thank you for your email of 16 February 2023 requesting information relating to a complaint on food labelling. Your request has been considered under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA).

You requested the following:

- 1. all the documentation and correspondence with Impossible Foods. This is because it is contradictory to the Impossible foods website statement.*
- 2. Your comprehensive report with the identity preservation document that you conducted with Impossible Foods to confirm that the soy isolate and protein is GM Free.*

On 16 March 2023 the Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) extended the time limit to respond to your request to 27 April 2023.

Correspondence with Impossible Foods is attached as Appendix One. The report of MPI's investigation is attached as Appendix Two. Some information has been withheld in the appendices pursuant to the following sections of the OIA:

- Section 9(2)(a) - *to protect the privacy of natural persons*
- Section 9(2)(b)(ii) - *to protect information where the making available of the information would be likely unreasonably to prejudice the commercial position of the person who is the subject of the information.*

The identity preservation document is withheld under section 9(2)(b)(ii), *to protect information where the making available of the information would be likely unreasonably to prejudice the commercial position of the person who is the subject of the information.*

MPI is satisfied that in the circumstances of this case, the withholding of the information is not outweighed by other considerations which render it desirable in the public interest to make the information available.

I trust the information provided is of assistance. 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

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "J. Bishop."

Jenny Bishop
Director, Food Compliance and Response