

OIA24-0256

6 May 2024

Josephine Stewart  
fyi-request-26459-bfb1e7b5@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Josephine

Thank you for your email of 17 April 2024 requesting information relating to mRNA vaccines. Your request has been considered under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA).

You requested the following:

*Please confirm the following:*

- 1) Have MRNA vaccines been approved for use in NZ beef, poultry, sheep, pork?*
- 2) If not, are you intending on looking at MRNA vaccinating animals in N.Z.*

The Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) has not received an application for registration of a mRNA vaccine under the Agricultural Compounds and Veterinary Medicines Act 1997 (ACVM) for use on animals in New Zealand.

Under the Agricultural Compounds and Veterinary Medicines Act 1997 (the ACVM Act), all therapeutic veterinary medicines, such as vaccines, must be authorised by MPI before they can be imported, manufactured, sold, or used in New Zealand. This includes the use of experimental formulations undergoing trial work in animals.

If an application to register an mRNA vaccine is received by MPI in future, MPI will publicly notify receipt of the application in the New Zealand Gazette (<https://gazette.govt.nz>), and any member of the public may make a submission on the proposed registration. After the consultation period is completed, MPI will review all submissions received, undertake a comprehensive scientific assessment of all available data and information, and complete an appraisal of the associated risks and benefits of a vaccine. MPI will only grant a veterinary medicine registration when the benefits outweigh the risks, and all risks can be managed through regulatory controls.

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](mailto: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](mailto:info@ombudsman.parliament.nz).

Yours sincerely



Karen Booth  
**Acting Director Assurance**