



OIA20-0693

23 November 2020

Grace Haden

fyi-request-14051-3d7a0cf9@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Grace Haden

Thank you for your email of 29 October 2020 requesting information relating to the warranting of specific SPCA inspectors. Your request has been considered under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA).

The Ministry of Primary Industries (MPI) takes animal welfare seriously. MPI provides funding to the SPCA solely for compliance and enforcement purposes. This includes funding for animal welfare inspectors and auxiliary officers, who are appointed under the Animal Welfare Act. Their prime occupation is to investigate cruelty, abuse, neglect and abandonment in companion animals.

The legislative requirements for appointing inspectors and auxiliary officers are described in sections 121 to 126 of the Animal Welfare Act 1999. Section 122 of the Animal Welfare Act 1999 allows the Minister to impose conditions as to the "Performance and Technical Standards" (PTS) for SPCA animal welfare inspectors and auxiliary officers. As part of the PTS, it outlines the process for selection, training and the appointment process. MPI are informed that these processes have been followed by way of a "statutory appointment application form". These completed application forms are sent to the National Manager of Animal Welfare and NAIT Compliance who will make the decision as to whether the applicant meets the PTS and will receive the statutory appointment.

The first statutory appointment is for a maximum period of one year. If after one year the SPCA wants the inspector or auxiliary officer to continue, then a further application is made. These applications for statutory appointment can be approved for a maximum of three years.

You requested the following:

By way of OIA please provide all correspondence and documentation, including applications, explanations, consents relating to the warranting of the following inspectors in the SPCA going back to the time when they were first warranted and all subsequent renewals

1. Kevin Plowright
2. Lauri Davis
3. Mike Loulanting
4. Tracey Phillips
5. Greg Reid

Your request for the above information has been declined in accordance with section 9(2)(a) – *to protect the privacy of natural persons* as it contains information relating to the above-named application forms, police vetting forms and identification forms.

However, I can advise that the Animal Welfare Inspectors were appointed and subsequently renewed on the following dates:

1. Kevin Plowright was first appointed on 9 November 2005. There have been a number of subsequent renewals since this date. His current appointment expired on 13 November 2020.
2. Lori Davis was first appointed on 9 February 2009. There have been a number of subsequent renewals since this date. Her most recent renewal was on 4 February 2019 and is not due to expire until 4 February 2022.
3. Mike Loulanting was appointed on 15 November 2019 and this expired on 15 November 2020.
4. Tracy Phillips was appointed 29 August 2019 and is due to expire 29 August 2022.
5. Greg Reid was first appointed on 16 October 2014. He was renewed on 16 October 2017 and this expired on 16 October 2020.

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



Gary Orr
Director Compliance Services