



Ref. No. DOIA 2021-2049

13 May 2021

Ed Grove

fyi-request-15173-64a5ff2d@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Ed Grove

Thank you for your email of 14 April 2021 to the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE) requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), the following information:

...copies of all research documentation, analysis, internal reports and internal and external communications dating from 2013 onwards regarding the presence and potential ramifications of elevated (80% - 100%) relative humidity levels (with or without any associated condensation) within the wall structures of new (post 2005) timber framed cavity-constructed residences including in particular:

(a) Any analysis as to the impact of such elevated relative humidity levels (with or without any associated condensation) on timber framing moisture levels and decay and mould risks;

(b) Any research/analysis or correspondence as to the impact of the elevated (80 - 100%) relative humidity levels upon the rate of loss by diffusion of boron from timber framing, the impact of the elevated relative humidity levels upon the ultimate residual (equilibrium) levels of boron in the timber framing, and consequent impact on the efficacy of the boron treatment for control of decay fungi and mould. More generally, any research/analysis or correspondence as to whether or not boron treatment will be sufficient to prevent mould and/or decay fungi growth on timber framing in elevated (80% - 100%) relative humidity levels;

(c) Any field observations of (or correspondence/notes regarding) mould and decay-fungi growth in the internal wall structures of new (post 2005) timber framed and cavity constructed buildings where no material external liquid moisture entry (i.e. leaks) has been detected;

(d) Any research/analysis, notes or correspondence regarding whether or not current (post 2005) timber framed cavity construction is achieving, or is likely to achieve, or can/should be modified to achieve, compliance with the Building Code in light of the potential impacts of elevated interstitial relative humidity levels and/or any associated condensation.

On 22 April 2021, MBIE informed you that, unless you were able to narrow the scope of your request, MBIE would likely refuse your request under section 18(f) of the Act, as the information requested could not be made available without substantial collation or research. MBIE also provided you contextual information and two reports that, though not technically in scope of your request, we thought you might be interested in.

On 29 April 2021, you responded to MBIE, explaining your concerns about mould and decay fungi growth in timber-framed and cavity-constructed homes. Your email has been forwarded to the relevant teams at MBIE to bring your concerns to their attention.

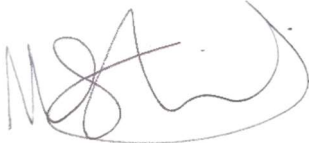


With regard to your request under the Act, I am extending the deadline for a response by 20 working days under section 15A(1)(b) of the Act, as the consultations necessary to make a decision on your request are such that a proper response cannot reasonably be made within the original time limit.

We will now respond on or before 11 June 2021, which is an extension of 20 working days.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this decision. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or freephone 0800 802 602.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'MSK', enclosed within a hand-drawn oval shape.

Madeline Sherwood King
Team Leader, Ministerial Services
Building, Resources and Markets