



OIA14-023

11 AUG 2014

Peter Arthur
fyi-request-1809-fc308b5b@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Peter Arthur

OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT REQUEST

I refer to your official information request of 14 July 2014 where you have asked for the cost of the investigation into the importation of *Agathis silbae* – the Kauri from Vanuatu.

The costs to conduct this investigation, excluding fixed internal costs, amounted to \$46,052.67. This consists primarily of scientific type costs in support of the investigation.

The Ministry for Primary Industries has decided not to release the costs of fixed internal costs of the investigation. This information is being withheld pursuant to section 18(f) of the OIA because the information requested cannot be made available without substantial collation or research.

As required under section 18B, MPI consulted you regarding this request. An e-mail dated 4 August 2014 was sent to you asking if you were prepared to confine your request to external costs. You responded and requested both internal and external costs.

MPI has considered under section 18A whether charging for the information or extending the timeline for response would enable internal costs to be collated, but has decided that this would still result in the diversion of significant resources to perform this work.

You have the right under section 28(3) of the Official Information Act to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of our decision to refuse part of your request. A request must be made in writing to:

The Ombudsman
Office of the Ombudsmen
PO Box 10 152
WELLINGTON

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'DB', with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

Dean Baigent
Director, Compliance