



OIA22-0614

9 August 2022

Felix Lee  
fyi-request-19957-1a328a40@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Felix Lee

Thank you for your email of 19 July 2022 requesting information relating to the 2019 Media report on smuggled mooncakes. Your request has been considered under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA).

You requested the following:

*There was a report in the media in 2019 about a woman who bragged on Facebook about her grandmother who smuggled mooncakes into the country. A spokesperson said MPI is following up.*

Source: <https://www.newshub.co.nz/home/travel/2019/08/woman-bragging-about-relative-deceiving-nzbiosecurity-prompts-mpi-investigation.html>

*I would like to request the case file for this investigation.*

It is New Zealand law to declare or dispose of risk goods at our international borders to prevent pests and diseases entering New Zealand, potentially causing millions of dollars' worth of damage to the country's environment and economy.

If risk goods are imported into New Zealand without receiving adequate biosecurity clearance, they are defined as unauthorised goods. It is an offence under section 154O(15) of the Biosecurity Act 1993 to knowingly possess, or attempt to possess, unauthorised goods:

<https://www.legislation.govt.nz/act/public/1993/0095/latest/DLM4759462.html>

In the case your request relates to, initial inquiries into the person of interest showed no evidence of any offence being committed. The person of interest was spoken to and given educational information regarding regulations and possible offences.

The Matter Summary Report you requested is attached as Appendix One. Pursuant to Section 9(2)(a) of the OIA, some information has been withheld to *protect the privacy of natural persons*.

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](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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'G. Orr'.

Gary Orr  
Director Compliance Services