

OIA22-0925

30 January 2023

Luke

fyi-request-21422-386a5322@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Luke

Thank you for your email of 14 December 2022 requesting information relating to information on *Mycoplasma bovis* (*M. bovis*) and testing protocols. Your request has been considered under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA).

I shall quote and respond to each part of your request below.

What specific scientific literature did MPI use to determine the M.bovis bacteria is a disease causing bacteria.

The Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) uses an accumulation of literature and knowledge about clinical signs where *M. bovis* is confirmed. There are many scientific articles about *M. bovis* as a disease-causing agent in cattle, some links are provided below:

- *Mycoplasma bovis: disease, diagnosis, and control* is a review paper documenting the range of disease caused by *M. bovis*:
<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/12589733/#:~:text=Mycoplasma%20bovis%20is%20a%20major%2C%20but%20often%20overlooked%2C,parts%20of%20South%20America%2C%20in%20the%20last%20decade.>
- *Technical Advisory Group Report to the Ministry for Primary Industries on Potential for Eradication of Mycoplasma bovis from New Zealand*:
<https://www.mpi.govt.nz/dmsdocument/28053-TAG-Report-Redacted.pdf>
- *Clinical Impact of Mycoplasma bovis in New Zealand*:
<https://www.mpi.govt.nz/dmsdocument/35661-Clinical-impact-research>

What other procedures are in place to diagnosing a disease in the animals before PCR is applied.

We utilise Bulk Tank Milk (BTM) testing to help identify infected cattle/herds. With reference to section 18(d) of the OIA, MPI's diagnostic procedures are publicly available. The article provided below includes information on BTM screening - the first drop down *how is Bulk Tank Milk screened* also has a useful process guide:

<https://www.mbovis.govt.nz/mycoplasma-bovis-info-hub/national-surveillance/bulk-tank-milk-screening/>

This article has further information on PCR (Polymerase Chain Reaction) testing as well as ELISA (Enzyme Linked Immunosorbent Assay): <https://www.mbovis.govt.nz/mycoplasma-bovis-info-hub/whats-involved-with-testing/>

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



Simon Andrew
Director Mycoplasma Bovis