



OIA14-506
OIA14-509

2 JUL 2015

Dear Megan Gatley and Amber-Leigh Woolf

I refer to your official information request to the Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) on 9 June 2015 and your request transferred from the Minister for Food Safety on 10 June 2015 relating to Blue Sky Meats (NZ) Ltd and horse meat in New Zealand. Your specific questions are outlined below.

1. *“How many horses were sent to Blue Sky Meats (NZ) Ltd. in 2014?”*
2. *What was the profit for export of Blue Sky Meats (NZ) Ltd. horse meat in 2014?*
3. *How many horses were sent to slaughter throughout New Zealand in 2014?*
4. *Are there any other horsemeat exporters in New Zealand that are exporting to Europe?*
5. *Are horse meat products sold for pet consumption only in New Zealand?*
6. *Is the consumption of horse meat legal in New Zealand?*
7. *We would also like to request all relevant information on the sale of horsemeat within New Zealand.”*

Within New Zealand, horses as with other common animals, such as cattle and sheep, may be processed for consumption by humans and/or pets with adherence to regulatory requirements.

Blue Sky Meats (Gore) is the only processor or exporter of horse meat for human consumption. However, horse meat may also be processed by pet food operators. In the 2013/14 financial year, 1477 horses were sent to Blue Sky Meats (Gore). Information regarding horse meat for pet food is not collected by MPI.

Companies registered to process horses for either human consumption or pet food decide where the horse meat is sold or to which country to export. MPI does not regulate or control these commercial decisions. Therefore, we do not hold information on company profits for exports of horse meat.

I trust this information satisfies your request.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'M Stone'.

Matthew Stone
Director, Animal and Animal Products