



OIA16-0482

30 AUG 2016

Graham Carter
c/- fyi.org.nz

Dear Graham Carter

OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT REQUEST

Thank you for your official information request on 5 August 2016 relating to “copies of emails and reports on what steps are being taken to ensure that the crayfish exported to overseas countries will not be eaten alive ‘ikizukuri’ style”.

I refer to the Ministry for Primary Industries’ (MPI) response to a previous request from you under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA). MPI does not hold any information on post arrival treatment of fish consignments once landed in other countries. Once the consignments are accepted and cleared into the importing country, they are no longer under MPI’s control. Therefore, your request is refused under section 18(e) of the OIA as the information and documents requested do not exist.

While we cannot require other countries to follow our animal welfare laws, New Zealand contributes to multilateral discussions on animal welfare issues and to the development of international guidelines for animal welfare. There are international standards around animal welfare for fish, for example the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) rules for stunning and killing farmed fish.

You have the right under section 28(3) of the OIA to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of our decision.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Peter', with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

Peter McCarthy
Chief Legal Adviser