



# Office of the Prime Minister

Prime Minister

Minister for National Security and Intelligence

Minister of Tourism

Minister Responsible for Ministerial  
Services

12 DEC 2016

Gary Stephenson

Email: [fyi-request-5044-411fa032@requests.fyi.org.nz](mailto:fyi-request-5044-411fa032@requests.fyi.org.nz)

Ref: PMO 167-2016

Dear Gary Stephenson

## Official Information Act Request Relating to the Control of Feral Rabbits and Cats

I refer to your request of 30 November 2016 under the Official Information Act 1982 which asked:

*"I would like to know why the Government has such differing views on the control of Feral cats and Feral Rabbits.*

*In the case of feral rabbits, The deadly and painful Rabbit Haemorrhagic Virus is freely used and \$480,000 spent in the past few years researching more virulent variants. With another \$240,000 allocated for more research. These viruses put the lives of 116,000 pet rabbits at risk.*

*In the case of feral cats, the Government does not use the deadly Feline Infectious Peritonitis why?*

*Rabbits affect plants*

*Cats kill our native wildlife and protected species.*

*Why use a deadly virus on one species and not the other."*

The information you have requested appears to be more closely connected to the functions and responsibilities of the Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI). Accordingly, this request has been transferred to MPI under section 14 of the Act.

Yours sincerely

Wayne Eagleson  
Chief of Staff