



Office of the Prime Minister

Prime Minister

Minister for National Security and Intelligence

Minister Responsible for Ministerial Services

22 FEB 2017

Gary Stephenson

Email: fyi-request-5326-676281cc@requests.fyi.org.nz

Ref: PMO 016-2017

Dear Gary Stephenson

Request relating to pet rabbit protection

I refer to your latest correspondence of 8 February 2017 in which you raised concerns about the safety of pet rabbits under the feral rabbit eradication program.

You set out your concerns in the following terms:

*"Your predecessor, Rt Hon John Key, (without referring to MPI), gave the assurance on TV that his cat Moonbeam was as safe as a house under the Predator Free New Zealand program and so were other pet cats. Without saying this is a question for MPI, which it is not, and passing the email to MPI, Can you, as the New Prime Minister please give me the same reassurance that my Pet Rabbits will be safe as a house under the feral rabbit eradication program as your predecessor was happy to give regarding cats
If not why not?
Why should Pet rabbits be treated any differently to pet cats?"*

Your previous requests on this matter have been addressed to this Office as requests made under the Official Information Act 1982. These requests were transferred to the Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) as you were raising concerns about a rabbit eradication programme you believed was being undertaken by MPI. As such, we believed that if there was any official information relevant to your requests, the most likely agency to hold it and the agency most closely related to the information you were seeking would be MPI.

Your latest correspondence does not appear to be seeking official information likely to be held by the Prime Minister or this Office, but is raising concerns and seeking reassurance about the safety of pet rabbits.

The Ministry for Primary Industries is in a better position to answer your correspondence and I have therefore referred your latest correspondence to that Ministry and asked them to respond to you directly.

Yours sincerely

Wayne Eagleson
Chief of Staff