



OIA17-0723

John Hill
fyi-request-6996-d17e88cd@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear John Hill

OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT REQUEST

I refer to your official information request from 12 December 2017 relating to peer reviews of the Mānuka Honey Science Programme, specifically;

Please advise all peer reviews of the mānuka science definition from the beginning of the mānuka science definition project to this date. Please ensure this includes, all chemical and DNA markers.

Information regarding peer reviews is publicly available at the following address.
<https://www.mpi.govt.nz/dmsdocument/18178-summary-of-mpi-response-to-international-peer-review-of-the-classification-modelling-methodology-cart-used-to-produce-identification-criteria-for-manuka-honey>

Therefore this request is refused pursuant to section 18(d) of the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA) that the information requested is publicly available.

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

Yours sincerely

Allan Kinsella
Director Systems Audit, Assurance & Monitoring



OIA17-0728

John Hill
fyi-request-7036-ad80313e@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear John Hill

OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT REQUEST

I refer to your official information request from 12 December 2017 relating to the development, introduction and planned implementation of the definition and standard for Manuka honey as announced by the Minister of MPI on Tuesday 12 December, specifically;

- a) correspondence, minutes of meetings, memos, reports, studies, options papers, cost-benefit analyses, agendas, internal rules affecting decisions, briefings, submissions, consultants' reports, costings, policy papers, legal advice, emails (and deleted emails), drafts, work diaries, handwritten written file notes, telephone notes and similar; including*
- b) any communications in relation to this definition and standard with relevant and/or affected parties within NZ or overseas including but not limited to the regulatory authorities; Ministers or officials responsible for and/or employed within MFAT, MBIE, MPI, the Overseas Investment Office (OIO), and associated agencies; and*
- c) any economic impact assessment*

Legal advice is withheld pursuant to section 9(2)(h) of the OIA to maintain legal professional privilege and there is no countervailing public interest in disclosure.

This information has been refused pursuant to section 18(f) of the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA) because the information requested cannot be made available without substantial collation or research.

Pursuant to section 18B, we considered consulting you about revising the scope of the requests. Given that you have made a number of requests for information related to the Manuka Honey Science Programme, we do not see that entering into correspondence on this issue is likely to refocus this request down to a manageable scale. Accordingly, your request is now being refused under section 18(f) of the OIA.



OIA17-0731

John Hill
fyi-request-7006-cfcfc0d6@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear John Hill

OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT REQUEST

I refer to your official information request from 13 December 2017 changing the amount of 2-methoxyacetophenone, specifically;

"Please provide all information both written in reports and by email, and peer reviews of the current Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) CART statistical model, which has occurred with the decision to change the amount of 2'-methoxyacetophenone mg/kg from 1 mg/kg to 5 mg/kg in the MPI science model. Please advise all scenarios that were checked, the financial effects of this decision on the honey industry and any political decisions that affected this change, and any discussions with foreign governments."

The MPI CART statistical model was not used to determine the amended level of 2'-methoxyacetophenone (2'-MAP). Information on work done to determine the appropriate level of 2'-MAP in response to blending concerns raised by industry can be found in a recently published MPI document. Refer to <https://www.mpi.govt.nz/news-and-resources/consultations/proposed-general-export-requirements-for-bee-products/> for the report "Summary of submissions on MPI's proposed definition for mānuka honey".

Therefore this part of your request is refused pursuant to section 18(d) of the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA) that the information requested is publicly available.

The Director-General of MPI is empowered under section 60 of the Act to issue the General Export Requirements for Bee Products Notice (the Notice) in order to facilitate market access and to safeguard assurances provided by New Zealand.

MPI considered all feedback received during consultation before finalising the Notice. The change made to the definition you refer to was made to address concerns expressed by industry that the overall definition for mānuka honey could also allow blending of kānuka and multiflora honey to "create" monoflora honey. As a result MPI increased the level of the 2'-MAP chemical marker for both monoflora and multiflora honey to address these concerns.

As you will be aware, in light of new information received in January 2018 from industry and an MPI recognised laboratory on likely impact, MPI re-evaluated the level of conservatism built into the multifloral definition and lowered the level of 2'-MAP for multifloral from 5 mg/kg to 1 mg/kg. MPI is confident in the science supporting a multifloral definition set at this level and industry will not be unduly impacted.

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

Yours sincerely



Allan Kinsella
Director Systems Audit, Assurance & Monitoring



OIA17-0733

John Hill
fyi-request-7022-b3a50796@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear John Hill

OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT REQUEST

I refer to your official information request on 14 December 2018 relating to the Manuka Honey Science Program, specifically;

Have stability trials been completed for DNA markers for Manuka Honey science? Has the Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) or any subcontractors carried out any time and stability trials on their DNA Manuka Honey Science? Please provide all data, time periods of stability undertaken, details and analysis, reports and emails. Please ensure also this covers the period after MPI found there was an error in the reagent used, and all of the required data undertaken from this period as well.

No stability trials on the DNA markers were undertaken either before or after the modification. Therefore this request is refused pursuant to section 18(e) of the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA) that the information requested does not exist.

However MPI checked DNA stability by looking at archive samples collected for the programme. The MPI response to submissions which comments on DNA stability and evaluate data provided in submissions is publicly available at the following URL:

<https://www.mpi.govt.nz/dmsdocument/26497-response-to-submissions-on-mpis-proposed-definition-for-manuka-honey>

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

Yours sincerely

Allan Kinsella
Director Systems Audit, Assurance & Monitoring



OIA18-0062

John Hill
c/o FYI website

Dear John Hill

OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT REQUEST

I refer to your official information request on 29 January 2018 relating to regions of honey sourced, specifically;

Please advise the names of the regions that honey and nectar samples were sourced from which are currently identified as Regions 1 to 12.

The regions in New Zealand have been coded as honey samples were provided to the Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) for use in the science programme with the understanding that the geographic location would be kept in confidence. Information was supplied on the basis that no part of its origin would be released.

In addition, the coding also prevents the potential prejudice which could occur if regions were known. For example, identification of regions which have plants or honeys that produce markers at elevated levels when compared to others could provide an unfair disadvantage to suppliers in other regions.

Therefore, this information is withheld pursuant to section 9(2)(ba)(i) of the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA) to protect information which is subject to an obligation of confidence where the making available of the information would be likely to prejudice the supply of similar information.

MPI is satisfied that in the circumstances of this case, the withholding of the information is not outweighed by other considerations which render it desirable in the public interest to make the information available. You have the right under section 28(3) of the OIA to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of our decision to withhold information.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Allan Kinsella'.

Allan Kinsella
Director Systems Audit, Assurance & Monitoring