



OIA18-0034

15 FEB 2018

Tara Jackson
c/- FYI website

Dear Tara Jackson

OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT REQUEST

I refer to your official information request on 21 January 2018 relating to complaints relating to rodeos held by the Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI). Specifically, you requested:

'(...) all complaints regarding the rodeo that has been sent to you over the past 10 years. I would like access to any responses made by MPI.'

A search of MPI's Compliance records regarding rodeos can only locate complaints made since 2014. Before this time, any rodeo complaints would have been attended by the SPCA.

The following information is released to you under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA):

MPI is releasing 14 summary investigation reports which document rodeo animal welfare complaints made to MPI from 2014 to 2017 to date. A complaint submitted in April 2015 was made in regard to alleged offences committed at six separate rodeos. As these complaints were submitted by the same individual, they were logged as one overall complaint. The complaint led to six separate investigations into each rodeo outlined.

In addition to the summary investigation reports, MPI are also releasing a memorandum sent from a senior MPI animal welfare inspector to an MPI District Compliance Manager regarding the six complaints made in April 2015. This memo details the complaint review process and the decisions reached in regard to each investigation. In all the materials released, some information has been withheld pursuant to section 9(2)(a) of the OIA, to protect the privacy of natural persons, and section 9(2)(b)(ii), as the information would be likely unreasonably to prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied or who is the subject of the information.

In regard to the most recent complaints made as a result of rodeos in the 2016 season, MPI are releasing the following:

- A memorandum on North Island rodeo complaints, dated 18 July 2016.
- A memorandum on the background of the rodeo investigations, dated 19 December 2016.
- A memorandum entitled South Island Rodeo Footage Analysis and Recommendations dated 21 July 2016;
- A letter from MPI to the president of the New Zealand Rodeo Cowboy Association, dated 23 December 2016;
- A report entitled Monitoring Compliance of Rodeos 2016-17 Season dated 20 December 2016
- An analysis of each rodeo complaint made by Anti-Rodeo Action New Zealand (ARANZ) against the New Zealand Rodeo Cowboy Association during the 2015 – 2016 season.

Only one rodeo complaint was received and investigated in 2017. This investigation resulted in a warning. A summary report of this matter is also released to you. As with the materials noted on the previous page regarding the animal welfare complaints from the 2014/15 season, some information in this summary has been withheld pursuant to the following sections of the OIA:

- 6(c) – as the making available of the information would be likely to prejudice the maintenance of the law, including the prevention, investigation and detection of offences.
- 9(2)(a) – to protect the privacy of natural persons.

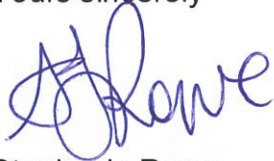
In the document titled: South Island Rodeo Footage Analysis and Recommendations, some information has been withheld under section 9(2)(g)(i) of the OIA – in order to maintain the effective conduct of public affairs through the free and frank expression of opinions by or between or to Ministers of the Crown or members of an organisation in the course of their duty.

Please note that any attachments referred to in the various documents have been provided to you as separate documents, which are named and included in the above list. However, at the bottom of page 1 of the memorandum on the background of rodeo investigations (dated 19 December 2016), it is stated that an MPI staff member produced a report that is “attached” to this document. This report contains internal legal advice and has been withheld in full in accordance with section 9(2)(h) of the OIA – to maintain legal professional privilege.

In addition to the documents intended for release, MPI has identified a report that was produced in regard to the animal welfare complaints made by ARANZ in relation to 2016 rodeos and is in scope of your report. This report however is being withheld under section 9(2)(g)(i) of the OIA.

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 blue ink, appearing to read 'S. Rowe', with a stylized, cursive script.

Stephanie Rowe
Director, Compliance Services