



MP for West Coast-Tasman

Minister of Agriculture

Minister for Biosecurity

Minister for Food Safety

Minister for Rural Communities

Associate Minister for Trade and Export Growth

MinOIA18-0059

7 MAY 2018

Melissa Stark

fyi-request-7444-9742be0c@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Melissa Stark

RELEASE OF OFFICIAL INFORMATION

I refer to your official information request of 14 March 2018 relating to advice received by Minister Hon. Damien O'Connor regarding the Rabbit Haemorrhagic Disease Virus K5 strain (RHDV1a-k5) specifically:

1. *What advice have you received on the long term benefits of RHDV1a-k5 from the Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) and from any other group or individual?*
2. *What advice have you received from MPI or from any other group or individual on the development of humane methods of wild rabbit control, the costs and benefits?*
3. *What advice have you received from MPI or from any other group or individual on the real dangers posed to the growing pet rabbit population by the use of RHDV viruses and also of the negative social, emotional and physiological effects on their owners and family members?*

I have received advice in relation to RHDV1a-k5, however, none of the advice provided falls within the scope of the information as you have requested it.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'D. O'Connor', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Hon. Damien O'Connor
Minister for Biosecurity