



24 January 2019

By email to fyi requests

Dear Mr Francis

I write in response to your Official Information Act request of 5 December 2018, seeking information held by the University about Professor Jean Fleming's being approached and subsequently being involved in the 2000-2001 Royal Commission on Genetic Modification. You also asked when Professor Fleming advised the University that she had been approached to take part in the enquiry.

Professor (then Dr) Fleming was initially approached by the Department of Internal Affairs by telephone on 11 April 2000. Professor Fleming sought advice from her Head of Department, Professor Gareth Jones, on that same day and subsequently agreed to be involved.

Within University records I have identified that Professor Gareth Jones wrote to Professor David Jones, who at that time was Dean of the School of Medical Sciences, on 19 June 2000. This letter requested a reduction in Professor Fleming's working hours for the period in which the Commission would be functioning, and suggests that Professor Fleming's involvement in the Commission was already known to Professor David Jones at that time. A further letter, requesting an extension of reduced working hours, was sent on 15 June 2001. These two letters are attached.

Three further relevant and related letters, from the University to Professor Fleming, were also identified. However, as these concern Professor Fleming's University employment conditions and salary arrangements, this correspondence is appropriately withheld under Section 9(2)(a) of the Official Information Act (protection of the privacy of natural persons). I note your right to have this decision reviewed by an Ombudsman.

Yours sincerely

Chris Stoddart
Registrar
University of Otago

21 JUN 2000



20 JUN 2000

DEPARTMENT OF ANATOMY AND STRUCTURAL BIOLOGY
SCHOOL OF MEDICAL SCIENCES

Professor DT Jones
Dean
School of Medical Sciences

Dear David

Reduction in Hours - Dr JS Fleming

As you will be aware, Dr Jean Fleming has been appointed to the Royal Commission for Genetic Modification. The Commission will be functioning full-time between August 2000 and June 2001. As a result, Dr Fleming has requested that her appointment be reduced to 0.2 for that period.

I have met with Dr Fleming and discussed the consequences of this temporary reduction in her hours. I am confident that all of Dr Fleming's teaching and research duties can be adequately covered, during her absence, by current staff, the appointment of casual teaching staff, and the appointment of a research assistant. (These extra appointments will be funded from Dr Fleming's salary savings.) An advertisement and job description for the research assistance will be forwarded shortly.

This reduction in hours will be effective from 1 August 2000 to 1 June 2001 inclusive. Dr Fleming will resume full-time duties as of 4 June 2001.

Please let me know if you require any further information.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Gareth".

D Gareth Jones
Professor and Head of Anatomy and Structural Biology

19 June 2000



