

**Subject:** FW: Attention: Ray Smith [Your OIA20-0420 Response ERMA 200223 ]  
**Date:** Thursday, 11 March 2021 at 7:17:57 PM New Zealand Daylight Time  
**From:** Wendy McGuinness  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Attachments:** image001.jpg, OIA21-0002 - a response to your request.eml

Attention: [REDACTED] Director Verification Services, MPI

Dear [REDACTED],

Thank you for your email in response or our OIA 2021/05 (attached).

Thank you for clarifying the role of MPI, in particular that MPI only verifies the facility not the annual reports. We note the verification reports (prepared by MPI) are included in the annual reports. For this reason we have extended question 4 to focus on the verification reports published in the annual reports and question 5 to clarify the labour costs charged by MPI to AgResearch.

#### Extending Question 4

*Q4: Was MPI involved, directly or indirectly, in reviewing the content of the ten-year annual report after it was sent to the EPA? If yes, please explain the process and provide copies of all correspondence and notes of phone calls/meetings. Please explain what feedback was provided?*

Given that MPI prepare the verification reports (that are included in the annual report) – can you provide answers to the following sub-questions:

Q4 (a): Has MPI completed a **review of a verification report (e.g. 2020) or a group of verification reports over time (e.g. 2010-2020)?**

- **If no**, please explain what organisation (other than MPI) is responsible for reading and reviewing the verification reports to ensure actions have been taken (where required) and were implemented correctly and consistently over time? Please provide their contact details.
- **If yes**, (i.e. MPI has completed a review/reviews) of the verification report/s, please answer the following questions:

Q4 (b): What **form did this MPI review/s** take? (e.g.: (a) by whom (b) what timeframe/s - each year, every two years or for all ten years, and (c) what was the output)

Q4 (c): What **actions did MPI identify** in response to the content of the review/s?

Q4 (d): What **actions did MPI take** in response to the content of the review/s?

Q4 (e): Please provide **any MPI report or paper** that analyses the verification reports over time (e.g. over two years or more)? If yes, please also explain who those reports/papers have been sent to (such as EPA, AgResearch and/or another party).

- **And more generally:**

Q4 (f): Who is responsible for **reviewing the actions** taken by MPI in response to the content of the verification reports?

Q4 (g): What is the protocol that **triggers compliance**? In particular what would need to be stated in a verification report to trigger an action?

Q4 (h): What fees or penalties/punishments would AgResearch be liable for/held to account if they fail to comply at a point in time or over time? Please explain.

Q4 (i): The issues in the verification reports, both in isolation and together, are in our view significant. Why have these issues not been dealt with? (please explain in more detail; ideally directing us to any guidance/protocols/reports and/or processes)

#### Extending Question 5

*Q5: Your correspondence notes: 'As is MPI's normal practice, all costs associated with AgResearch verification inspections are invoiced to AgResearch. The cost to MPI for these verification activities is therefore zero. Cost regulations are regularly reviewed by the MPI Cost Recovery team to ensure that any changes in the cost of service delivery are accommodated. The last review, and subsequent amendment of these cost regulations, was carried out in 2018.' (p. 3).*

*(a) Please provide a copy of the invoices to AgResearch for these costs for each of the last three years. Please ensure this includes hours MPI staff attended AgResearch's premises as well as hours taken writing up the subsequent report.*

*(b) We would also like to review the cost regulations. Your correspondence indicates this process was completed in 2018. Can provide a copy of this review (in 2018) and the previous review.*

Q5: (a): Can you clarify the cost per hour to MPI verses the cost per hour charged by MPI to AgResearch? Our understanding is that MPI is currently charging an hourly rate for audit/inspection to AgResearch of \$25.57 (see invoices in Appendix 2). However MPI (page 2 of your letter) states the current rates for services are set at \$102.27 (general inspector) and \$186.30 (veterinary inspector).

Q5: (b): Can you provide more information to explain how the system works in practice? Our aim is to understand the skill level of those supplying the verification services and writing the verification report; this includes what are their terms of reference (what are they being paid to do and look for), how long are they in the facility, and what is their level of expertise.

Thank you again for your patience.

Best wishes, Wendy

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Date:** Monday, 8 March 2021 at 3:47 PM  
**To:** Wendy McGuinness <wmcg@mcguinnessinstitute.org>  
**Subject:** RE: Attention: Ray Smith [Your OIA20-0420 Response ERMA 200223 ]

Hi Wendy,

Thanks for your email.

I've attached the response to your request for information which was sent to you on 16 February 2021.

Ngā mihi

[REDACTED] | Senior Adviser, Official Information Act Team  
Government Services | Public Affairs  
Ministry for Primary Industries - Manatū Ahu Matua



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**From:** Wendy McGuinness <[wmcg@mcguinnessinstitute.org](mailto:wmcg@mcguinnessinstitute.org)>  
**Sent:** Monday, 8 March 2021 3:33 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Re: Attention: Ray Smith [Your OIA20-0420 Response ERMA 200223 ]

Good afternoon,

I hope you are having an excellent day. I am just following up on an early January OIA.

Based on our records, we have not received an email from you in response to our OIA of 5 January 2021. Can you firstly confirm that is the case ( I would hate to have made a mistake) and secondly, if that is the case can you let me know when we can expect a response.

Many thanks, Wendy

PS: You might also be interested to know that we now upload all our OIA's and responses on our website, see [here](#). Please note we follow government policy and redact any personal names or email addresses other than the CEO. However, please do come back to me if there are any issues. Thank you!  
<https://www.mcguinnessinstitute.org/publications/correspondence-oias/>

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Date:** Tuesday, 5 January 2021 at 5:16 PM  
**To:** Wendy McGuinness <[wmcg@mcguinnessinstitute.org](mailto:wmcg@mcguinnessinstitute.org)>  
**Subject:** Automatic reply: Attention: Ray Smith [Your OIA20-0420 Response ERMA 200223 ]

Thank you for contacting the Official Information Act Inbox at the Ministry for Primary Industries.

If you have requested information under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA) your request will be considered and a decision provided in accordance with the requirements of the OIA.

If you have any questions regarding your request, please email

[REDACTED]  
Kind regards,

**Official Information Act Team**

Government Services | Public Affairs

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| Wellington | New Zealand

Telephone: 0800 00 83 33 | Email: [REDACTED] | Web: [www.mpi.govt.nz](http://www.mpi.govt.nz)

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