



OIA13-089

04 OCT 2013

Dear [REDACTED]

OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT REQUEST

I refer to your official information request of 21 August 2013 relating to a Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) Animal Welfare Inspector's investigation of a pig farm at [REDACTED] Christchurch in March 2013. You requested "...all files relating to this inspection including (but not limited to) the inspectors notes taken on the day, photographs, and details of the outcome. Please also include any information from follow up inspections that resulted from this initial complaint."

MPI has decided not to release the file relating to the investigation. This information is being withheld pursuant to section 6(c) of the Official Information Act (OIA) on the grounds that to release it would prejudice the maintenance of the law including the prevention, investigation, and detection of offences.

However, under section 16(1)(e) of the OIA, a summary of the contents of the file is released to you as follows:

A complaint was received on 2 April 2013 about the conditions on a pig farm. The complaint claimed that many of the pig pens were very dirty and wet, the farm in general appeared rundown and that the condition of some of the pigs was poor. The pigs were located on a farm at [REDACTED] Christchurch.

The property was visited by an MPI animal welfare inspector and a veterinarian on 3 April 2013. The investigation identified significant non compliance with the Minimum Standards in the Animal Welfare (Pigs) Code of Welfare 2010. An AWS 130 Instruction to Prevent or Mitigate Suffering pursuant to section 130(1)(b) of the Animal Welfare Act 1999 was issued to the farm operator.

The AWS130 instruction required regular supervision of staff, daily inspection and treatment as appropriate of pigs injured or sick and cleaning of all pig pens to an acceptable standard.

The animal welfare inspector and the veterinarian discussed the identified issues with the farm's operator. Requirements to bring the operation up to the minimum standards were outlined. The operator was also notified of further visits from MPI and a veterinarian to monitor progress against the requirements.

MPI provided copies of the Animal Welfare Pig Code for each employee and undertook a staff training programme during another visit in May 2013.

A visit to the farm in August of this year established that significant improvements had been made to the infrastructure, management and welfare of the piggery and the pigs' health. No non-compliances with the Minimum Standards in the Animal Welfare (Pigs) Code of Welfare were identified. Thus, the AWS 130 notice was formally discharged. There are arrangements in place for ongoing monitoring of the property.

You have the right under section 28(3) of the Official Information Act to request that an Ombudsman investigate and review this decision to withhold information. A request must be made in writing to:

The Ombudsman
Office of the Ombudsmen
PO Box 10 152
WELLINGTON]

Yours sincerely



Dean Baigent
Director Compliance