

10 November 2020

Annelies Basten
The New Zealand Anti-Vivisection Society
Email: fyi-request-13886-ab63d95b@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Annelies

Official Information Act Request

Thank you for your Official Information Act (OIA) request of 30 September 2020. Further to our letter dated 27 October 2020 advising of an extension for reply, I can now provide the following information.

You requested the following information:

Question 1: Breeding Units

Does your institution maintain a breeding unit to supply animals for research, testing and teaching (RTT)?

If yes, then I would also like answers to the following questions covering the 2018, 2019 years and 2020 to date if possible please:

- *What species/type of animals are/were bred?*
- *What is the status of the animal types bred? ('status' is used in the same way as it is on the Animal Manipulation Figures reporting form required to be completed by the Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI))*
- *How many animals bred in the breeding unit are/were used for RTT and what portion of the total number of animals for each type bred does this represent?*
- *How many animals of the different types bred are then euthanised so their bodies or body parts can be used in RTT?*
- *What happens to animals bred and not required for RTT or euthanised for their bodies or body parts to be used in RTT and how many animals of each?*
- *What happens to animals used for breeding once they are no longer used for breeding from?*

If the precise figures are not available, then approximations with an estimation of the size of the uncertainty in the numbers would be appreciated.

I would also like copies of any photos or video (digital copies if possible) of the inside of the breeding facilities showing the animal housing taken in the last five years. (please note it is expected that any images that include staff members or students will be edited to remove people).

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I advise that AgResearch breeds mice and rats in the Small Animal Colony at Ruakura Campus. Grasslands Campus (Ulyatt-Reid) do have facilities for small animals but these facilities do not undertake any breeding.

Question 2: AEC Applications

For the 2018, 2019 years and 2020 year to date I would like the following information for your Animal Ethics Committee (AEC).

If you don't have your own AEC and you use a parent AEC then please let me know and don't worry about answering the questions below:

- 1. The number of applications for approval received*
- 2. The number of those applications approved as submitted, no changes required*
- 3. The number of those applications approved after changes were requested by the AEC and then made*
- 4. The number of those applications declined.*

Your request for photos/videos of the facilities is declined under Section 18(e) of the Official Information Act 1982, as AgResearch does hold such information. Further, AgResearch is not obliged under the Act to create information to respond to your request.

Your requests for information under Questions 2, 3 and 4 of your requests are refused under Section 18(f) of the Act, on the basis that it cannot be made available without substantial collation or research.

From 01/01/2018 to 09/11/2020 465 applications were submitted to AEC(s) at AgResearch.

There are limitations in the way this information is stored, and AgResearch does not currently possess the required expertise to easily retrieve this information in a timely manner. I have consulted with staff, who advise that it would take approximately 1 week to obtain (between 30-40 hours) the information sought under these questions. This would be charged to you at the rate of \$80.00 (plus GST) per hour. AgResearch is also unable to provide you with "*approximations with an estimation of the size of the uncertainty in the numbers*" for the same reasons as above.

If you would like AgResearch to proceed with your request to provide the information sought under your questions 1 and 2, please provide payment of the first week's collation (consisting of 40 hours chargeable time) being the sum of \$3,200.00 (plus GST). This payment is for part of the work only, and AgResearch reserves the right to charge more for further collation or research at actual cost.

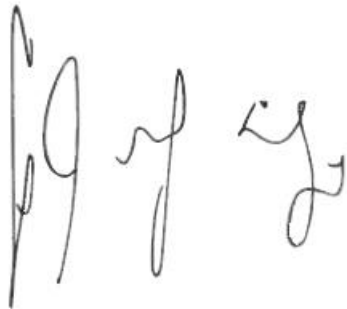
Question 3: Fistulated Animals

- Does your institute currently have any fistulated animals on their premises, if so, how many and what species? Please provide photos.*
- Has anyone applied to fistulate any animals to your AEC in the past 5 years, if so, can we have copies of the approved AEC applications?*
- Are there are projects currently underway involving the fistulation of animals?*

I advise that AgResearch currently holds six cows and ten sheep that are re-used after a research project, to reduce the number of animals required for experimentation. There has been no work carried out since 2015. Research scheduled for 2019 was cancelled, and I can confirm there are no projects underway, to currently require more animals involved in fistulation.

I advise that you have the right to make a complaint to the Ombudsman to seek an investigation and review of the refusals of your request in this letter, under [Section 28\(3\)](#) of the Act.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Trevor Stuthridge'. The signature is written in a cursive style with some loops and flourishes.

Trevor Stuthridge
Research Director