

11 JUN 2018

OIA18-0328

Josh Lucas  
fyi-request-7813-e96cb29f@request.fyi.org.nz

Dear Josh Lucas

## OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT REQUEST

I refer to your official information request on 12 May 2018 relating to *Mycoplasma bovis*. I shall quote and provide responses to your questions below:

1. *What reliable and reputable medical documentation or opinion does the Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) use to base their public statements around the safety of Mycoplasma bovis infected cows meat and dairy products?*

MPI contacted the Ministry of Health (MoH) to obtain a risk assessment regarding the risk of *Mycoplasma bovis* on human health. Under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA), MPI is releasing this document to you. It is entitled: *Risk Assessment: Mycoplasma bovis and Human Health, 29 August 2017*.

2. *Has the Ministry for Primary Industries seen the following paper [Isolation of Mycoplasma bovis from a Patient with Systemic Illness, 12 March 1979] and does the ministry agree that the fact that this paper points out the isolation of Mycoplasma bovis from a human patient is concerning and therefore statements MPI has made regarding the safety for human consumption of Mycoplasma bovis infected meat or dairy products could be inaccurate?*

The assessment that MPI sought from MoH considered the paper referred to in your request alongside many other sources of information and advised MPI on the health risks, which in turn, MPI has communicated. The case that you are referring to refers to exposure to manure and not consumption of animal products (i.e. meat or dairy).

Yours sincerely

  
Geoff Gwyn  
Director, Readiness and Response Services