



OIA 19-E-0198 /docCM 5906739

18 April 2019

Ms Stephanie McKee  
[fyi-request-9954-2300c00c@requests.fyi.org.nz](mailto:fyi-request-9954-2300c00c@requests.fyi.org.nz)

Dear Ms McKee

Thank you for your Official Information Act request to the Department of Conservation, dated 29 March 2019. You requested the following:

*What types of cereals or blends of cereals are used in prefeed and in poison baits used by the Department of Conservation?*

*What is the country of origin of these cereals?*

*Please describe the routine testing control regime to determine the quality of cereal used in prefeed and/or in poison baits?*

*Which authority is responsible for any tests or quality control of cereal used in pre-feed and/or 1080 or brodifacoum poison baits?*

*How does the Department of Conservation ensure that the grains in the toxic baits they use do not contain spores or other biosecurity risks?*

*What peer reviewed research or other information does the Department rely on for the scientific assessment of toxic bait cereals and their potential contamination with fungal spores, including aflatoxins and phytophthora?*

*Please give results of any cereal testing programmes carried out over the last 3 years, the methodology used and the organisation carrying out the tests.*

The department has answered these questions in a previous OIA response, 'Biosecurity risk from using cereal 1080 in baits', which you will find on our website at [www.doc.govt.nz/news/oia-responses/](http://www.doc.govt.nz/news/oia-responses/)

Because the information requested is already publicly available, your request is refused under section 18 (d) of the Official Information Act 1982.

We further advise that the Department of Conservation:

- does not manufacture baits
- information about bait ingredients is proprietary to the manufacturer

- any cereals used must meet Ministry for Primary Industries regulations
- regulatory authorities do not consider there to be any biosecurity concerns from the application of cereal baits.

You are entitled to seek an investigation and review of my decision by writing to an Ombudsman as provided by section 28(3) of the Official Information Act.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Amber Bill', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Amber Bill  
Director Threats, Biodiversity  
for Director-General