

OIA20-0273

20 AUG 2020

John Luke  
fyi-request-13020-74226748@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear John Luke

Thank you for your email of 4 June 2020 requesting information relating to meeting minutes for the National Animal Ethics Advisory Committee (NAEAC). Your request has been considered under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA).

You asked for:

*The full meeting minutes for each meeting since February 2014.*

NAEAC aims for transparency to be encouraged and facilitated at all levels in research, testing and teaching. More detail on this can be found in the NAEAC strategic plan at the following link: [www.agriculture.govt.nz/dmsdocument/33358-naeac-vision-and-strategy-2019-2023-pdf](http://www.agriculture.govt.nz/dmsdocument/33358-naeac-vision-and-strategy-2019-2023-pdf).

MPI is releasing to you the full NAEAC meeting minutes for 2014 to 2016, and February 2020.

The full minutes for 2017 to 2019 have already been released to you as part of our response to OIA19-0427 and are now publicly available. Therefore your request is partially refused pursuant to section 18(d) of the OIA as *the information is requested is already publicly available*.

Some information has been withheld pursuant to the following section(s) of the OIA:

- Section 9(2)(a) – *to protect the privacy of natural persons.*
- Section 9(2)(b)(ii) - *to protect information where the making available of the information would be likely unreasonably to prejudice the commercial position of the person who is the subject of the information.*
- Section 9(2)(g)(ii) – *maintain the effective conduct of public affairs through the protection of such Ministers, members of organisations, officers, and employees from improper pressure or harassment;*
- Section 9(2)(i) – *to enable a Minister of the Crown or any department or organisation holding the information to carry out, without prejudice or disadvantage, commercial activities.*

**Agriculture & Investment Services**  
**Animal Health & Welfare**  
Charles Fergusson Building, 34-38 Bowen Street  
Wellington 6011, New Zealand

MPI is satisfied that in the circumstances of this case, the withholding of the information is not outweighed by other considerations which render it desirable in the public interest to make the information available.

I trust the information provided is of assistance. Should you have any concerns with this response, I would encourage you to raise these with the Ministry for Primary Industries at [Official.InformationAct@mpi.govt.nz](mailto:Official.InformationAct@mpi.govt.nz). Alternatively, you are advised of your right to also raise any concerns with the Office of the Ombudsman. Contact details are: Office of the Ombudsman, PO Box 10152, Wellington 6011 or at [info@ombudsman.parliament.nz](mailto:info@ombudsman.parliament.nz).

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Chris Rodwell', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Chris Rodwell  
**Director Animal Health & Welfare**